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GRAB MAGAZINE

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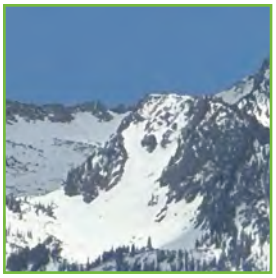

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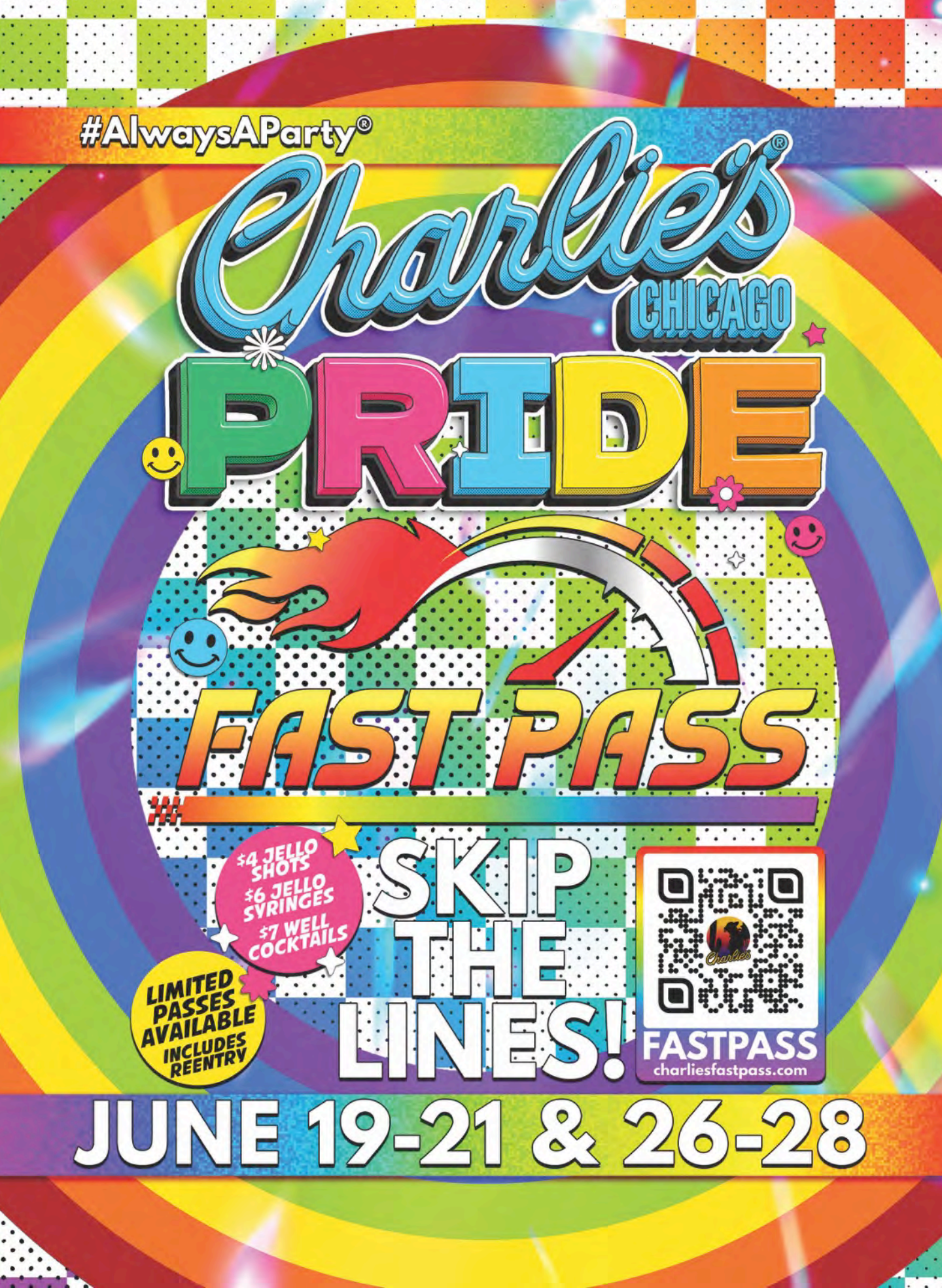
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GRAB PATRICK

Worth the wait: An interview with queer singer/songwriter Patrick Wolf

By Gregg Shapiro

Not every artist who has kept us waiting for more than a dozen years for new music succeeds in recapturing their former glory. The good news is that not only has queer, British singer/songwriter Patrick Wolf delivered on the promise of his earlier work but exceeded all expectations with "Crying The Neck" (Apport/Virgin). Having survived an extremely difficult period, including the passing of his mother and becoming sober, Wolf wastes no time in laying it all out in album opener "Reculver" ("No child, no husband/Prospects oblique/Bankrupt and borderline/Orphaned and obsolete/Well, enough/Of my accomplishments/Here's to the bridges burnt/Never to mend"). But fear not, there is healing and rebirth, all wrapped up in the most sumptuous electronic-tinged gothic/folk you've ever heard. Patrick generously made time for a Zoom interview in advance of his June 2026 US tour dates.

Gregg Shapiro: Patrick, you have established yourself as a multi-instrumentalist, playing a variety of musical instruments including piano, violin, ukulele, and guitar. In your musical training, which instrument did you pick up first?
Patrick Wolf: First of all, I've evolved. I'm not a ukulele player anymore. I pioneered that whole thing. In 2003, I brought the ukulele out of obscurity into the public eye. I'm stepping back now. It's not my problem anymore. My first love was the violin when I was seven years old. I did try piano lessons before that, but I found it really boring learning other people's music. Also, the violin, for me, was a magic instrument. I saw somebody on my road, when I was growing up, playing it and all I wanted to know was how that piece of hair on that string made that sound. It seemed like a magical event, like supernatural. I asked my mom if I could have violin lessons. When I was 11, I had a growth spurt and was suddenly 6 foot 5. Everybody said, "You're too big for the violin. You're going to have to play the viola now." I was given a viola and put into orchestra as a viola player. At that time, I discovered John Cale and realized I could be wild and free with the viola. I didn't even bother to learn the viola class. I decided I was going to make my own music with it. The viola is the instrument that is the bedrock of my sound. It's taken me until 40 to learn the actual guitar. For years, all I played were four-string folk instruments. The viola is the thing that started all that.

GS: In terms of your distinctive vocal style, are there performers that you consider to be influences?
PW: Growing up, it was Björk. I discovered Björk when I was a choir boy singing Latin evensong for the church. Three times a week, I'd be singing in Latin. I discovered Björk just as my voice broke. I had two icons then; it was Debbie Harry and Björk. The attitude of Debbie Harry. I think I still have it. When I reach for certain notes, I don't put any

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vibraton on, and I definitely think that she was a huge imprint on me vocally. In terms of male influences, my mother would play French chanson, people like Maurice Chevalier, and then I discovered Chet Baker. These people were delivering the opposite of what I was taught at school. Kate Bush is also a big presence as well, as a narrative singer, the way she would tell stories and bring you close to the microphone. And PJ Harvey! PJ Harvey, Björk, and Kate Bush.

GS: What a spectrum! Regarding your songwriting process, do the lyrics precede the melody, or vice versa?
PW: My favorite moments are when they come at exactly the same time in my head. Those feel like they've been delivered to me like from somewhere else. For years, I carried a big sketchbook with no lines in it so I can make maps with words, three-in-the-morning kinds of sentences and stuff like that. That, generally, is what I will then start to rearrange around the melodies I've written. I guess like Elton John and Bernie Taupin. Sometimes I have the melody, and that's all constructed. Then go into my notebooks and take those things. A lot of it I do in my head, now. I try not to get too intellectual with the process because otherwise I'll start getting out a thesaurus and then there'll be words that people don't understand. Which is great and fun to teach people. I try to keep it more human; otherwise I'll take on some forensic project, and something gets lost in translation if I try to over-intellectualize.

GS: Yes, overthinking can be a problem. There is a theatricality to your music, and the songs on "Crying The Neck" demonstrate that quality. Do you think you might have a stage musical in you?
PW: Everybody wants one! I definitely have a few projects in mind. I've never been a theatre gay. You'll never find me around a piano at Marie's Crisis in New York. I'll be down at CBGB's. Maybe in the last five years, I've started to go to traditional musicals. I love the old Rodgers and Hammerstein; the original musicals that I think are underperformed in a way. I maybe have a bit more of a problem with how musical theater is performed vocally, nowadays, than the writing of it. If I did a musical, it would probably utilize normal singers, in terms of folk singers, people who maybe just step back a bit. That thing that all gays love to be told is "tone it down" [laughs]. If I did a musical, I'd approach it from a completely different aesthetic point of view. That's my plan, if I went into it. Tori Amos had a musical out that is really beautiful, but it was with traditional musical singers. What I did see was a PJ Harvey musical

where they got the actors to sing in a folk style. It was really beautiful. There might be a different way of doing things that probably would be really unpopular and [laughs] no one would ever want to come see. That sounds just like my kind of project.

GS: On average, your early albums were released about two years apart. "Crying The Neck" is the exception, with more than a dozen years passing before its release. What was happening in your life during that time?
PW: It's a lot easier to talk about the further away that that period gets. I plan on finishing the next album this summer. I'm going back into my album every two years mode, which felt like my way of arranging my land as a farmer; this fallow field. It's so wonderful to say that this is a gift of sobriety, as well. When I was using, I obliterated that completely. I know that I fried that part of my brain, and I never thought it would come back. I fried that part of my confidence, my look, and had to rebuild everything again and connect the synapses together. That was a combination of hardcore clinical psychotherapy, a lot of meetings, a lot of recovery, and a lot of fellowship. That took 13 years of my life. I started when I was very young. My first album came out when I was 19 years old. We just completed the last set of films about this period of time, and my return to work. It's going to be great because one day I'll be able to say, "Gregg, have you seen the film? Can we talk about something else?"

GS: Do you think you might also consider writing a memoir about your experience?
PW: I think the film finishes the work, and brings that period of time to an end. Also, right in the middle of that, my mother died and it was all kind of an interconnected period of a rock bottom. There's addiction with drugs, addiction with alcohol. There's a lot that happened in those years that finishes with me putting my first new work out again. This for the long haul. Right now, I'm very obsessed with the present. It's taken me such a long time to have something to be proud of in the present, to share with the world and roll with, and move on to the next project. I've always been forward motion. It's great to be in that movement now.

GS: You also have a history of collaboration with fascinating guest artists, including the late Marianne Faithfull, as well as Tilda Swinton, and Zola Jesus, who can be heard on "Limb O," on "Crying The Neck." How do you know when a collaborator is right for a particular song, or do you write with a collaborator in mind?
PW: With someone like Zola… I was writing that song for like five or six years. I knew that it was a conversation between two people. I knew that it was taking an argument that during COVID lockdown, when all we were allowed to do was get in the car and go to the local supermarket and come back, between two people of the same

age and of the same nihilism. I was going through my phone, and I was thinking about (singer) Siouxsie Sioux. In the song, there's that [sings] “hohhhh” Siouxsie-ism. Although I’m sure Zola would be proud to say that she put her own gothic touch on things. The same thing happened with Marianne. I was writing that song over the summer, and then I read Marianne’s autobiography “Faithfull,” and there was something in the book about magpies and Marianne. She had been called a magpie at certain moments of her life. I had always wanted to do a song based on a traditional magpie rhyme. There are some songs on my album, like “Lughnasa,” when I tried maybe 18 divas around the world, because it was meant to be a song for a much older voice than is on it. It was meant to be a duet with my mother. Sometimes you can try so hard for something and then it turns out the only person who it resonated with enough was a folk singer my mother loved who was the same age as me. It was like, “Oh, of course it means the spirit of my mother doesn't need to be 80 years old. It can be a girl up the King's Road.” These duets come down to fate and circumstance. Always have done.

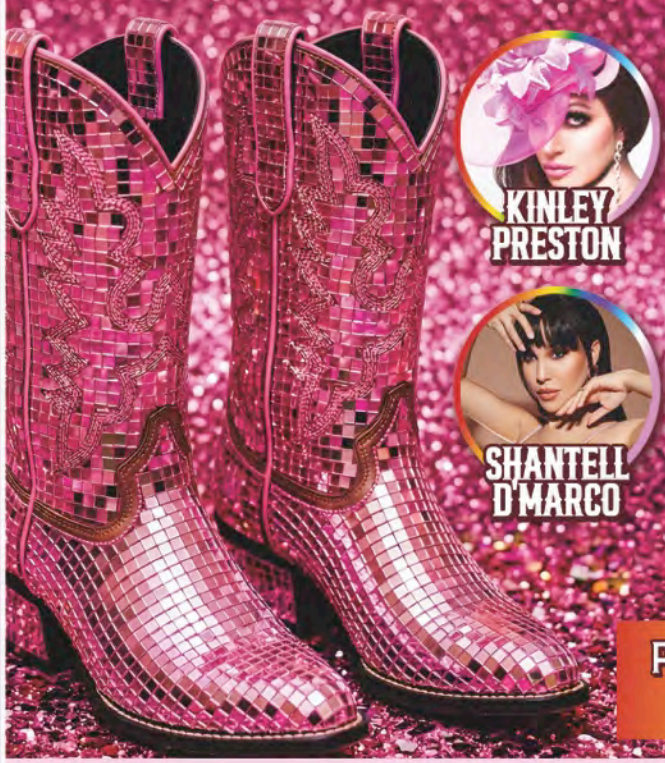
GS: Your June 2026 tour dates, here in the States, coincide with Pride month. Do you think that you might have time to check out some of the Pride festivals or parades taking place in those cities?
PW: I'll be at the one where the Pride parade is set up down the street without the sponsorships. We used to have a thing, when I lived in London, there was this really fun party. There was Gay Pride, and then there was a party called Gay Shame [laughs]. “Let's work through this together. Let's work through our shame privately.” I adore Pride. The concept of Pride being a protest is not really true anymore.

GS: Yes, it's been lost!
PW: I think it's being reclaimed for that, and that's the stage on which I’ll be. Either on or supporting. Down here where I live, by the sea, we have Margate Pride and that's very like an old fundamental Pride.

GS: More organic.
PW: Yes, and each year it has a kind of point of view of something they can change (for the better). Out here, in these seaside towns, to hold the hand of a man walking down the street, you're going to get shouted at. There's always something to change. The straight idea that we don't need Pride anymore. I think the whole thing needs to be, and I think everybody agrees, adjusted to being back in a movement of power. I also have this feeling a lot of the time to tell the LGBTQ youth that even if you decide not to do any activism with your life – and I know this is a controversial opinion – but if you decide to open a little bakery, live with your boyfriend, and live a really beautiful, happy life in an isolated way, that is the biggest protest.

GS: Just being gay every day is a kind of activism.
***PW*:** Yes. If that's your way of protesting, then that's also beautiful. That's Pride in itself.

SAT JUNE 20 & SUN JUNE 21



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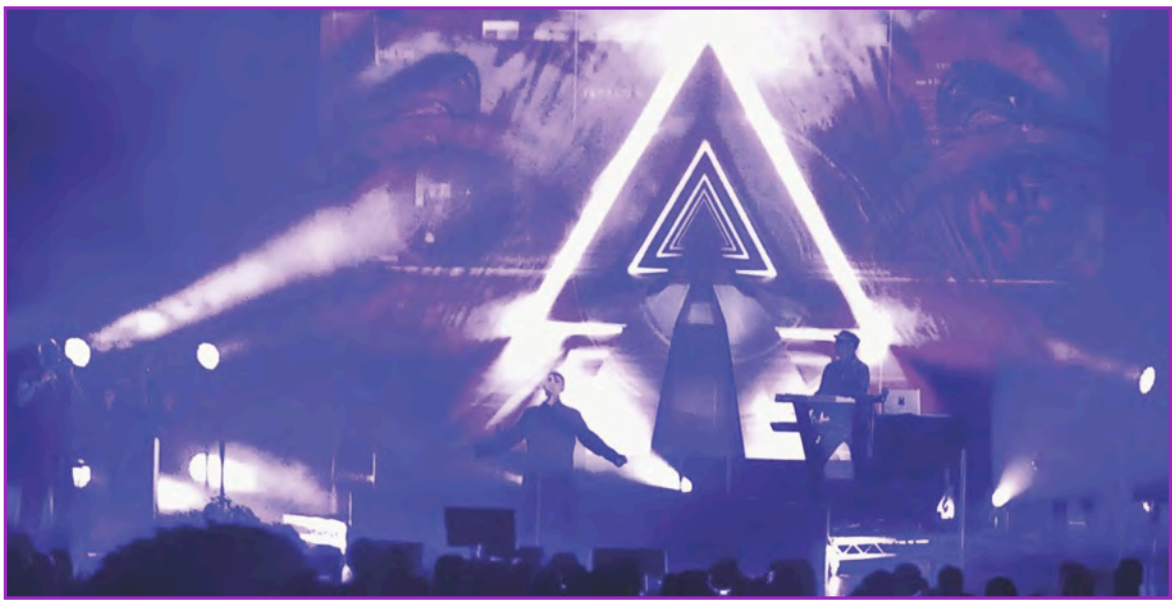

Time for a Soft Cell-ebration: An interview with Marc Almond

By Gregg Shapiro

Believe it or not, "Tainted Love/ Where Did Our Love Go," the groundbreaking debut single by synth-pop duo Soft Cell, celebrates its 45th anniversary in 2026. A medley of two songs from the early 1960s ("Tainted Love," originally recorded by Gloria Jones and "Where Did Our Love Go," originally recorded by The Supremes), the single, which remains in regular rotation to this day, helped cement the popularity of the new wave genre stateside. Queer lead vocalist **Marc Almond** and his musical partner, the late David Ball, left an indelible mark with that single, as well as songs such as "Sex Dwarf," "Bedsitter," and "Say Hello, Wave Goodbye." The current iteration of Soft Cell, led by Almond, is part of The Generations Tour, which also includes The Human League and Alison Moyet (of Yaz fame) on the bill. Almond generously made time for an interview in advance of the tour.

Gregg Shapiro: Marc, throughout June and into early July 2026, Soft Cell is one of three iconic British acts performing on The Generations Tour. How does it feel to be considered iconic?
Marc Almond: I think it's a great accolade to be called an icon by people who've grown up with you and bought your records. It means you've made an impression on their lives, and your work has been appreciated, and you represent something special to them, and for that, I am humbled.

GS: Will The Generations Tour be the first time that Soft Cell performs with The Human League and Alison Moyet in this capacity, or has Soft Cell performed with either or both in the past?
MA: This is the first time I've toured with either artist. Human League was an early inspiration to Soft Cell; we both started in Northern England, where there was a vibrant early electronic music scene, so it's great after all these years to finally be on the same bill with them, and Alison completes a wonderful lineup. We are all artists who made our names in electronic music.

GS: Is there any possibility that The Human League or Alison Moyet might join Soft Cell onstage for a number or two, or vice versa?
MA: There are no plans to. Each of us has our own set, and the first time we come together on this tour is the first night.

GS: The Generations Tour has dates in 21 U.S. cities. Are these all cities in which Soft Cell has previously performed?
MA: We've performed in many of the cities, but there are a few places I haven't played with Soft Cell, such as New Orleans, Las Vegas, and Nashville, and we're performing at some iconic venues such as Hollywood Bowl, Radio City Music Hall, and Grand Ole Opry, which will be amazing.

GS: Are there any cities in which Soft Cell is especially excited about performing?
MA: I'm very excited about the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and performing in New Orleans because I've never been there, but I'm looking forward to it all.

GS: The Generations Tour takes place during June, which is Pride

month. Do you think you might have time to take part in any of the Pride festivities taking place here in the States?
MA: Sadly, not this time, as the schedule is so tight but I wish everyone a happy Pride. Right now, it needs to be louder and more out there than ever.

GS: I love the name-dropping in the new Soft Cell single, "Danceteria," including John Sex, Madonna, Anita Sarko, and Andy (Warhol), as well as Congo Bill on the fourth floor. Why was now the time to celebrate this legendary and greatly missed venue?
MA: I wanted the album to be a love letter to New York in the early '80s, when we first visited there and recorded our first albums – a journey through a night in New York, the impressions it made on me, and how it was a dream come true for me to visit the USA as a boy from the North of England. I was drawn into the creative dance club scene, of which Danceteria was at the heart of everything we loved. We launched our first album there, and I knew many of the people who performed and worked there, many of whom are now sadly not with us. And I just loved the very word Danceteria!

GS: To my ears, there's a Nina Hagen tribute near the end of the song, when you sing "New York, New York." Am I on the right track?
MA: **I** didn't think of that at the time; I was just thinking of the Frank Sinatra and Liza Minnelli song "New York New York," but it may have also been in my subconscious as I loved that album that Nina Hagen did.

GS: **Soft Cell songs can be heard in regular rotation on Sirius XM's First Wave station. What does it mean to you that you are able to reach Soft Cell's original fanbase, as well as new generations?**
MA: It's wonderful that Soft Cell's songs, most of which we recorded a long while ago, are still being played and part of the soundtrack to people's lives. Younger generations are also coming to see us because maybe bands they like now were inspired by us. Streaming has opened up a wider musical world to cross generations, or we've been featured on soundtracks or covered by bands. "Tainted Love" is played all over the world in some place or at some time every day and just celebrated a billion streams.

GS: Finally, I wanted to express my condolences on the passing of your Soft Cell bandmate David Ball in 2025. Is there anything you'd like the readers to know about David?
MA: David was an original electronic music pioneer. We had great chemistry that continued over the years, heading on for 50 years since we started. I wouldn't be where I am if it weren't for his music, and he would be overjoyed to know it was being kept alive. He will be greatly missed but always celebrated.

Soft Cell performs on June 23 at The Chicago Theatre.

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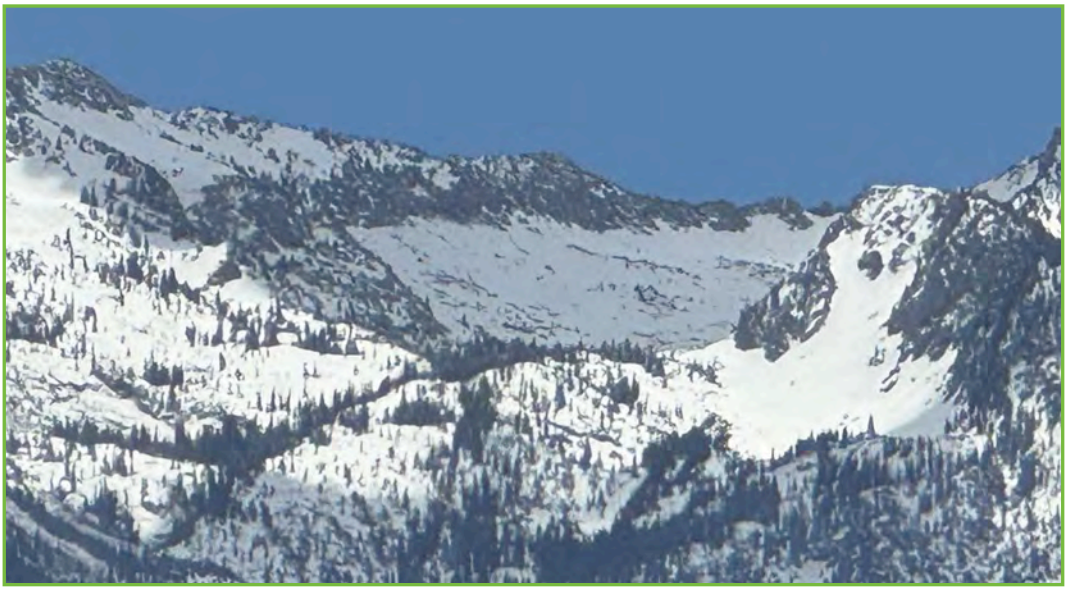


Surprising Salt Lake: Mountains, Museums, and More

By Bill Malcolm

Imagine Denver but instead a city right next to the mountains where you can be skiing or hiking in 20 minutes. An outdoorsy climate with varied geography. Interesting neighborhoods and great transit. Friendly people. And very welcoming. And booming. With a great hub airport just 20 minutes from downtown via the TRAX Light Rail.

Yes, that would be Salt Lake City. The nearby snow-covered Wasatch Mountain range provides a stunning backdrop to Utah's biggest city.

WHAT TO DO

Visit the Utah Museum of Natural History. Great exhibits highlight the state's interesting and varied geography and geology. Learn about the Hoodoos of southern Utah. Enjoy the Museum Café. And the dinosaur and bug exhibits.

Next door is the Red Butte Botanical Gardens and Arboretum run by the University of Utah. Learn about the native plants adopted to the various climates of the state. Hike the many trails. Both the Museum and the Gardens are accessible via the Red Line (Trax) and campus free bus shuttle. I liked learning about the diverse plants of the state which run from the Rocky Mountain trees to the deserts of Southern Utah.

Explore downtown and the new Mormon Church Temple Welcome Center (aka Tabernacle Plaza) with its beautiful gardens and stunning views. City Creek is the downtown mall just south of there.

WHERE TO EAT

Brio Italian Grill at 50 Regent Street downtown has great food. Try the pizza.

The Level Crossing Brewing Company has a broad selection of beers and a nice outdoor patio. It is in the cool new Post District (550 S 300 West) in a new neighborhood of apartments and restaurants (and very walkable). It is just steps from the Hampton. Enjoy Wedge Salad or the wood-fired pizzas. There is also an innovative Mexican restaurant nearby, plus several bars.

Vessel Kitchen is a fast casual healthy foods chain with innovative dishes. Try the custom protein salad with cilantro slaw, roasted Brussel sprouts, Thai carrots, and Fresno cauliflower with beef brisket smothered in tahini sauce at Vessel Kitchen. You will find them around town, including at 1146 E. Fort Union in Midvale. Tony Caputo's is a deli with a cult local following that is quite popular.

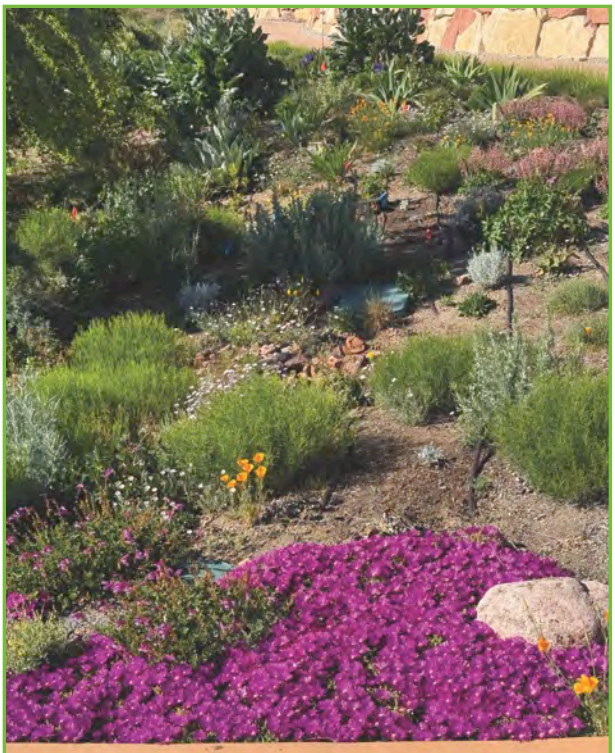
GETTING THERE

I took Southwest Airlines and did not mind its new assigned seating system. I went out through Denver and back through Chicago. Salt Lake City is a Delta hub so treat yourself nonstop. The Green Line Trax takes you downtown in 20 minutes and is just $2.50. Rental car/UBER not needed. An all-day pass on TRAX is just $5.

NIGHTLIFE

Club Try-Angles is a great bar with a nice outdoor patio. It has events every night like Karaoke on Thursdays. You will find it at 251 W. Harvey Milk Boulevard at nine hundred South, just a half block from the TRAX light rail station (just south of downtown). Details at ClubTry-Angles.com.

Sun Trapp is another option



Red Butte Botanical Gardens

(suntrap.com) and has drag shows. Why Kiki (whykikibar.com) is downtown and even features a silent disco and a drag brunch on Sundays.

While not an LGBTQ bar, the Green Pig Downtown Pub and Grill has drag bingo Tuesdays at 8 p.m. it also hosts parties during Pride Week. You will find them at 31 East 400 South downtown. Party like a pig.

While not a gay bar, urban hipsters will love the Water Witch with specialty craft cocktails and a friendly, quirky vibe. Try the Queen of Sierra red wine. It is in the 9th and 9th neighborhood near Try-Angles full of interesting independent shops and restaurants.

While you are there, walk or bike on the new 9-Line Trail, which is an urban trail running east to west in this fun neighborhood and near the Trax 900 South Station just south of downtown.

WHERE TO STAY

I stayed at the Hampton Inn Downtown which is more affordable than the other hotels I checked out. There are two Marriotts downtown. The Marriott at City Creek Center is a bit dated with a lengthy line to check in. There is a new downtown Marriott just south of there. I have also been to Kimpton. However, I use TripAdvisor to compare hotel reviews and rates and avoid hotels with resort fees/ destination fees/ amenity fees. Hotels have gotten expensive, so shop around.

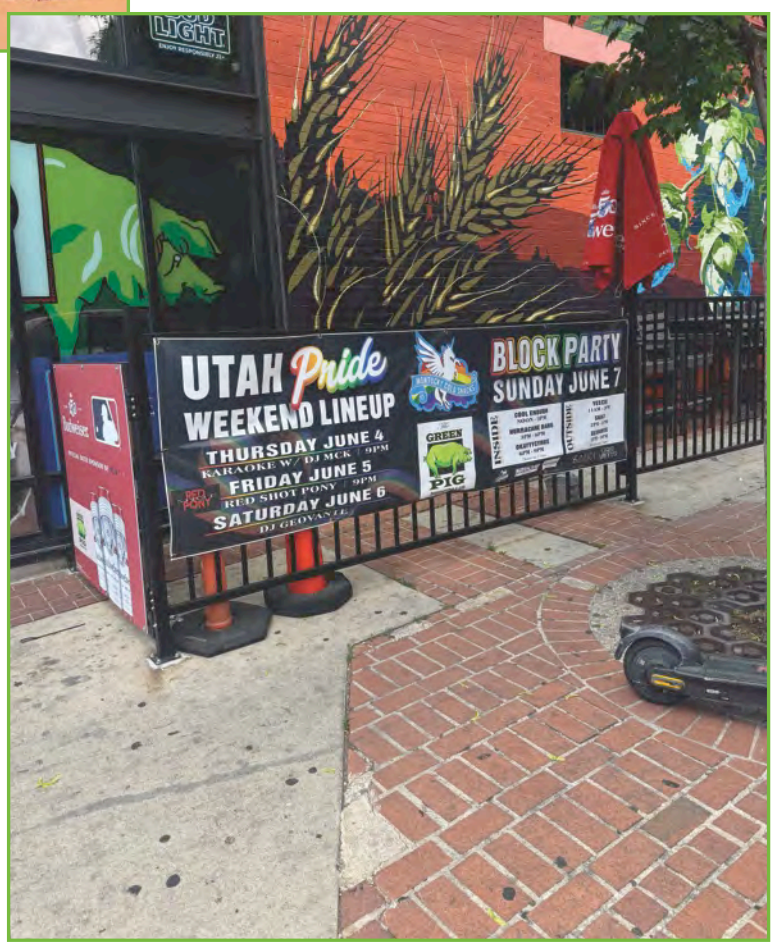
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Q Salt Lake is your LBBTQ publication (***QSaltLake.com***). UtahPride.Org is your site for Pride events throughout the state. And there is something happening every day at the Utah Pride Center. _Salt Lake City Magazine_ is the weekly independent paper that features local happenings, including a lively music scene plus lots of festivals.

If you drink, enjoy your alcohol at the bar as the state runs the liquor stores which are hard to find and inconvenient (although there is one downtown). However, the state now allows beer sales at regular stores if the alcohol level is five percent or below.

I really was surprised by how much I enjoyed my visit to Salt Lake City. You should check it out. Next time I will rent a car and go hiking in the nearby mountains or to see the stunning national parks of southern Utah.

Bill Malcolm writes a syndicated LGBTQ value travel column carried by various LGBTQ+ publications



show your pride.

Take note of these Pride Events across Illinois and join in spreading love, inclusivity, awareness and pride in every corner of the state!

May 16 | Springfield PrideFest
May 30 | Jacksonville Pride
May 30 | Mt.Vernon Pride in the Park
May 30 | Waukegan Pride Festival
June 3 | Joliet Slammers Pride Night
June 5 | Highwood Pride
June 5 | Pride in Park Ridge
June 5 | Rochelle Pride Night
June 5-6 | Quad Cities Pride Festival
June 6 | Downers Grove Pridefest
June 6 | Elgin Pride Parade
June 6 | Logan County Pride Fest
June 6 | Macomb Pridefest
June 6 | Niles Pride
June 6 | Rockford Pride Parade & Party
June 6-7 | NWI PrideFest
June 7 | Crystal Lake Pride Walk & Social
June 7 | Buffalo Grove Pride
June 7 | Kankakee Pride Picnic
June 7 | Lombard PrideFest
June 7 | St. Charles Pride
June 11 | Oak Park Pride Night Out
June 12 | Homewood-Flossmoor Pride Fest
June 12-14 | Andersonville Midsommarfest
June 13 | Aurora Pride at the Plaza
June 13 | Carbondale Pride on the Strip
June 13 | Dixon Pride
June 13 | Metro East Pride Block Party
June 13 | Michigan City Pride
June 13 | Ottawa Family Pride Festival
June 13 | Pride Richland County
June 13 | Pride at Shedd Aquarium
June 13 | Springfield CORAL Pride Picnic
June 13 | Vermilion County Pridefest
June 13 | Wheaton Pride
June 13-14 | Woodstock PrideFest
June 14 | Aurora Pride Parade
June 14 | Grayslake Pride Parade
June 14 | Interfaith Family Pride Fest
June 14 | Prairie Pride Coalition Pride Picnic
June 14 | South Side Family Pride
June 18 | Carol Stream Pride Concert
June 18 | Morton Grove Pride in the Park
June 19 | Hawthorne Pride Vernon Hills
June 19 | Vernon Hills Pride
June 20 | All My Relations Pride Event
June 20 | DeKalb Pride Fest
June 20 | Des Plaines Community Pride
June 20 | Elmhurst Family Pride Fest
June 20 | Lake County (IL) Pridefest
June 20 | Whiting Pride
June 20-21 | Chicago Pride Fest
June 26-27 | Pride Metal Fest
June 27 | Pride at Navy Pier
June 27 | Slay the Lake Pride Book Fest
June 27 | Yorkville Pride
June 28 | Chicago Pride Parade
June 28 | Pride Ride Batavia
June 28 | Skokie Pride
July 3-5 | Chicago Black Pride
July 5 | Pride South Side
July 11 | Belong Fox Valley Pride in the Park
July 18 | Peoria River City Pride Festival
July 25 | Bloomington-Normal Pridefest
August 7-9 | Northalsted Market Days
September 12 | Decatur Pride
September 19 | Joliet Pride
October 3 | Metro East Pridefest
October 17 | Plainfield Pride

www.pflagillinois.org | www.thepridesquad.com

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GRAB MUSIC

Q-Music: Reissued for your enjoyment

By Gregg Shapiro

With two well-received studio albums to the Chicago band's name, **The Smashing Pumpkins** did something daring with its third album by releasing a double-disc set. Fans who had been with the Pumpkins since "Gish" and "Siamese Dream" ate up "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness" (Virgin) with a spoon. Now available in a handsomely packaged four-disc 30th anniversary deluxe limited containing the original album and more than an hour of unreleased tour audio from 1996, "Mellon Collie…" presents the band as a Third Coast version of Boston's Pixies and Seattle's Nirvana. The music is as blistering ("Bullet With Butterfly Wings," "Zero," "Bodies," "Tales of A Scorched Earth," and "Jellybelly") as it is beautiful ("Take Me Down," "Tonight, Tonight," "1979," "Cupid De Locke," "Thirty-Three," and "Farewell and Goodnight") and still sounds as immediate and original as it did a decade ago. **[The Smashing Pumpkins perform on July 31 at Lollapalooza in Grant Park.]**

Bösendorfer-playing singer/songwriter **Tori Amos** still managed to capture her share of attention and garner a dedicated following, even with 1990s airwaves competition such as The Smashing Pumpkins and Nirvana (whom she covered). On her 2001 album "Strange Little Girls" (Rhino/Atlantic), reissued in an expanded double-disc 25th anniversary edition, including a full-color poster, Amos turned her complete focus to cover tunes. In keeping with Amos' distinctive (and slightly peculiar) taste in music, her bizarre choice of Eminem's "'97 Bonnie & Clyde" stands out from the rest. Far more accessible are her readings of The Stranglers' cover tune, her gorgeous takes on Tom Waits' "Time" and The Boomtown Rats' "I Don't Like Mondays," The Velvet Underground's "New Age," and a sensitive reading of queer Joe Jackson's "Real Men." The four-song bonus disc features admirable renditions of Bruce Springsteen's "Growin' Up" and Alice Cooper's "Only Women Bleed." [**Tori Amos performs on Aug. 14 at The Auditorium.]**

Want to feel old? The Molly Ringwald movie "Pretty In Pink," directed by Howard Deutch and written by John Hughes, turns 40 in 2026. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, the various artists **"Pretty In Pink": Original Motion Picture Soundtrack** (A&M) has been reissued on pink vinyl in an expanded edition with two bonus tracks, including the Otis Redding's "Try A Little Tenderness" (to which Jon Cryer does his legendary dance and lip synch number). In addition to featuring songs by A&M artists OMD (the top-ten single "If You Leave"), Suzanne Vega with Joe Jackson ("Left of Center"), and Jesse Johnson ("Get To Know Ya"), the soundtrack features The Psychedelic Furs rerecording of its titular song, New Order's "Shell-Shock," Danny Hutton Hitters' cover of Nik Kershaw's "Wouldn't It Be Good," as well as songs by The Smiths and Echo & The Bunnymen, among others.

Where would the current state of electronic music be without the No Wave pioneers Suicide? The duo, comprised of Martin Rev and the late **Alan Vega**, set the stage for so much of what we listen to now. Of course, what set Suicide apart was Vega's distinctive vocal style. Imagine a 1950s rockabilly heartthrob fronting an electronic act, and there you have it. For his 1980 debut solo album, an eponymous record reissued by Sacred Bones in an expanded deluxe edition featuring early demos of the disc's eight songs, Vega, with "encouragement" from The Cars' Ric Ocasek (who would produce Vega's third solo effort), focused on a retro rock style. The best of the material includes the surf punk of "Fireball" and "Bye Bye Bayou," the hip-swaying "Jukebox Babe," and "Speedway," which incorporates a persistent synth beat. Vega worked in a similar vein on the reissued 1981 follow-up "Collision Drive" (Sacred Bones), even going so far as to cover Gene Vincent's "Be Bop A Lula," and revisiting Suicide's "Ghost Rider" in this vintage rock setting.

In the pantheon of under-appreciated bands, **Jellyfish** ranks near the top of the list. Seamlessly blending influences ranging from Paisley Underground to power-pop and retro rock, the quartet unfortunately suffered from bad timing (grunge was all the rage when its brilliant 1990 debut album "Bellybutton" came out) and poor record label choices (the obscure and floundering Charisma). "Spilt Milk" (Capitol/UMe), Jellyfish's stellar second (and final) studio album, is getting the well-deserved 180g double LP reissue treatment via the VinylPhyle series. Spread across three sides (and a fourth including

"an engraved handwritten message" from Roger Manning), the 1993 album is the musical equivalent of whipped cream; equally delicious and fluffy (but with substance!). There's not a skip track in sight, with "Glutton of Sympathy," "Bye Bye Bye," "The Ghost at Number One," "Joining A Fan Club," and "He's My Best Friend," all worth mentioning.

The passing of Grammy Award-winner **Roberta Flack** at 88 in 2025 was an immeasurable loss. The eight-disc box set "With Her Songs: The Atlantic Albums 1969-1978" (Atlantic/Rhino) celebrates the first decade of her music career. Flack, who spent her formative years in the DC area, was a teacher before becoming a performing artist, most notably at the legendary gay restaurant and bar, Mr. Henry's on Capitol Hill. She released her debut album, "First Take" in 1969, and followed it in 1970 with the aptly titled "Chapter Two" and 1971's "Quiet Fire." This is where Flack's vocation took one of the most fascinating trajectories in contemporary music history. Her cover of Ewan MacColl's "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face," from 1969's "First Take," was featured in the 1971 Clint Eastwood movie "Play Misty For Me," propelling the three-year-old album into platinum territory and earning Flack a Grammy Award in 1972. That MacColl cover is a perfect example of Flack's knack for interpretation, as in the case of another of her Grammy-winning tunes, a 1973 cover of Charles Fox and Norman Gimbel's "Killing Me Softly With His Song" (from her "Killing Me Softly" album). Flack also made her mark on songs by queer singer/songwriter Janis Ian ("Jesse"), Carole King ("Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow"), Paul Simon ("Bridge Over Troubled Water"), Leonard Cohen ("Suzanne"), and many others. Her remarkable friendship with fellow Howard University classmate Donny Hathaway yielded a pair of collaboration albums, the first of which, "Roberta Flack & Donny Hathaway" from 1972 (included in the box set), produced another massive hit single, "Where Is The Love." Additionally, the albums "Feel Like Makin' Love" (1975), "Blue Lights In the Basement" (1977), and her eponymous 1978 release, all generated hit singles: "Feel Like Makin' Love," "The Closer I Get To You," and "If Ever I See You Again," respectively. "With Her Song" is an essential musical history lesson.

GRAB BUNNY

Bunny Butchers broadway

By Brian Hug

For decades, legendary drag icon Lady Bunny has built a devoted following by saying exactly what everyone else is afraid to say out loud. Armed with a towering wig, razor-sharp tongue, and absolutely no filter, Bunny has made a career out of skewering pop culture, celebrities, politics, and even her own community with equal-opportunity irreverence.

Now she's setting her sights on the Great White Way. In Bunny Butchers Broadway!, her outrageous new musical comedy extravaganza taking place July 29th at City Winery Chicago, Bunny takes a knife—and a microphone—to some of Broadway's most beloved classics, gleefully slicing and dicing songs from Wicked, Dreamgirls, Mamma Mia!, Beauty and the Beast, and more with her trademark blend of filthy humor and fearless social commentary.

Nothing is sacred. Bunny transforms "Beauty and the Beast" into "Pussy and the Yeast," reimagines "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" as "Don't Cry for Me, I'm On Tina," and even finds time for an original number taking aim at everyone's favorite billionaire punching bag, Elon Musk. Along the way, she pays tribute to icons like Liza Minnelli and Cher while delivering a drag queen roll call featuring fan favorites from RuPaul's Drag Race. In other words: if you're easily offended, this may not be the show for you.

Brian Hug:Which Broadway diva are you most similar to?
Lady Bunny: Patti LuPone. Neither one of us looks good dressed as a woman.

BH: Broadway fans are known for being passionate. Are you worried someone dressed as Elphaba might chase you down an alley after hearing what you've done to Wicked?
Lady Bunny: Bianca Del Rio is a friend, so I'm not scared of witches. I don't actually parody any of Elphaba's songs, so I should be OK. But this show isn't a slavish recreation of Broadway hits. It's Broadway as seen through the eyes of a demented drag queen who writes filthy parodies. But I do sing a reworking of "Popular" from Wicked, so I may get Ariana Grande fans chasing me after that song. Get her a sandwich!

BH: You've parodied everyone from Liza Minnelli to Cher. Is there any diva so powerful, so legendary, that even Lady Bunny is afraid to mess with her?
Lady Bunny: Yes! Chicago's own Mimi Marks! She's gorgeous and also funny as an emcee. My shows tend to attract people looking for off-color humor, so I doubt they'd be offended no matter who I poke fun at. But Madonna performed in Times Square recently, and I posted her pic and captioned it, "Donatella Versace performed in Times Square to kick off Pride. And only Donatella could make a diaper look chic." Madonna fans got so upset.

BH: What inspired you to turn "Beauty and the Beast" into "Pussy and the Yeast?"
Lady Bunny: My mom's vagina.

BH: You joke that you're taking Ozempic to save money on food. What's the most outrageous fad you've seen people embrace that made even you think, "Honey, that's too much"?
***Lady Bunny*:** I've heard of drag

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JUNE 16-17

GARTH BROOKS

JUNE 18-20

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DON TOLIVER
w/ SahBabii, Che, SoFaygo, Chase B, Lelo, sosocamo

CARÍN LEÓN

Charlie Wilson • Passion Pit • Third Eye Blind • Hot Mulligan • Father John Misty • STYX • David Lee Roth
The Academy Is... • Tash Sultana • Connor Price • flipturn • Nate Smith • Tyrese • Amyl and The Sniffers
Christopher Cross • Cameron Whitcomb • Holly Humberstone • Echo & The Bunnymen
Dexter and The Moonrocks • The Family Stone • Alejandro Escovedo
Adrien Nunez • AJ Croce • Aldo Nova • The Bends • Braid • Chris Cain • Danny Boy • Deer Tick • Don Felder • Dora Jar
The Dream Syndicate • Evan Honer • FEE$ • HUNNY • The Juliana Theory • Marion Funaki • McCoy Moore • Modern English
Nicholas Tremulis & The Prodigals • Penelope Road • Red Jumpsuit Apparatus • Red Leather • Rhys Rutherford • Scott Wolverton
State Champs • Steph Strings • Taylor Acorn • Weston Estate • Winyah
Altered By Mom • Avery Cochrane • The Band Solstice • Cigarettes @ Sunset • City of the Sun • Emmitt James • GRAHAM • Koyo • Maximiano
Morgan St. Jean • Old Mervs • Panic Shack • Post Sex Nachos • Tobacco Road • Trapper Schoepp • Troy Tyler • Venus & The Flytraps • VIAL

JUNE 25-27

ED SHEERAN
w/ Myles Smith, Aaron Rowe

CODY JOHNSON
w/ Jessie Murph

POST MALONE
w/ Carter Faith

The Roots • Louis Tomlinson • Subtronics • Tucker Wetmore • Russell Dickerson • KALEO • The Revivalists
Marcus King Band • Elderbrook DJ Set • Big Wild • Audrey Nuna • Grouplove • Kim Gordon
Wolfmother • Halestorm • Pepper • Little Feat • Petey USA • The Mountain Goats • BØRNS • Two Feet
Sudan Archives • Goldfinger • Mariachi Sol De Mexico • Vertical Horizon • Old 97's • 10,000 Maniacs
The Aces • The Band Loula • Big Daddy Kane • Boy Golden • Dylan Schneider • The Expendables • Freddy Jones Band • Gabriel Jacoby • Grabbitz
Hank Azaria and the EZ Street Band • Harper O'Neill • Hazlett • Henrik • Jean Dawson • Lanie Gardner • Lisa Loeb • Lucky Boys Confusion
Maris • The Movement • PawPaw Rod • Robert Randolph • Sincere Engineer • Souldified • Sons Of The Silent Age • Walk Off The Earth
Abby Moeller • Alannah McCready • Alex Sampson • Blonde • Bobby Friss • Elija Scott • Greg Koch & The Koch Marshall Trio • The Handcuffs • Harrison Gordon
KSP • Lake Drive • Lamb • Left On Sunset • Modern Alibi • Orquesta Ayala • Porch Light • Showoff • Siobhan Bodrug • TAZ • Tracy Bonham • Wire & Nail

JULY 2-4

MUSE
w/ Julia Wolf, Temper City

ALEX WARREN
w/ Noah Cyrus

JELLY ROLL
w/ Tyler Hubbard, Three 6 Mafia

Ella Mai • Sam Barber • Sean Paul • Buju Banton • Whiskey Myers • All Time Low • Kerry King • Spoon
Flo Rida • The Temper Trap • Stephen Marley • Rev Run of Run DMC • Jonah Kagen • Candlebox • Gene Simmons Band
Gin Blossoms • Matt Hansen • BoDeans • The Beths • Neal Francis • Baha Men • Straight No Chaser
Absolutely • Anees • Ax and the Hatchetmen • Blondshell • Bren Joy • Buckcherry • Chase McDaniel • DJ Jazzy Jeff • Edgehill • John Vincent III
The Jayhawks • Jobi Riccio • Joywave • Ken Pomeroy • KennyHoopla • Living Colour • Mindi Abair • Preston Cooper • Pure Hex • Sister Hazel
Soul Asylum • Spin Doctors • St. Paul and The Broken Bones • Sunflower Bean • Tag Team • The Heavy Heavy • The Ocean Blue
Adam Warner • Case Oats • Carolina Liar • DJ Kool • Fluorescents • girlfriends • Hotel Fiction • Jerry Harrison's 50 Years of Talking Heads
KT Tunstall • The Maiden Voyage • Nicole Lawrence • Palmer Anthony • Scout Speer • SIIN • Six Foot Blonde

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queens using meth to squeeze into dresses for pageants, but how do you win a pageant with missing teeth? I tried meth and it just made me eat faster.

BH: Chicago has a rich theater tradition. If you were given one night to completely rewrite a classic Broadway musical, which show would you Bunny-fy first and what scandalous change would you make?
Lady Bunny: Great question! I have several ideas. Nina West in Shrek The Musical. Priscilla, Queen of the Dessert with Silky Nutmeg Ganache. Joella in Once Upon a Mattress. Fiddler on the Roof starring Kevin Spacey. Britney Spears' IQ in Six. R. Kelly in Urinetown...

BH: David Dalrymple has designed five looks for this show. Which costume makes you feel the most glamorous, and which one makes you pray nothing pops out during the finale?
Lady Bunny: I wear a lot of mini-dresses, so the only thing that would pop out is a nut! But David did create a gorgeous Sunset Boulevard look for me based on the Glenn Close version. I saw the revival with Nicole Scherzinger, and the costumes all looked like black Lululemon.

BH: After butchering Broadway, what's next on your hit list? Disney? Country music?
Lady Bunny: My real reason for doing a show about Broadway is my jealousy of the drag queens who made it to Broadway. Yes, I'm bitter! I saw Jinkx Monsoon in Chicago and I have to admit, she was thrilling! I saw Alaska in Drag: The Musical and that was very restful. And Peppermint in Head Over Heels was, well, inclusive.

Lady Bunny stars in Bunny Butchers Broadway! taking place July 29th at City Winery Chicago.

For tickets, For Tickets visit ***https://tickets.citywinery.com/event/lady-bunny-jgq3gc***

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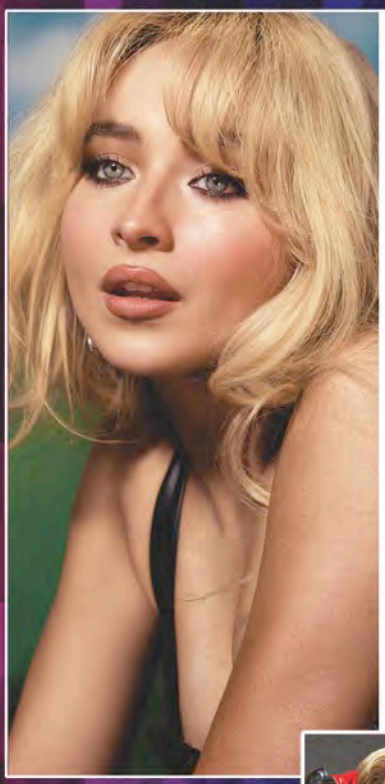

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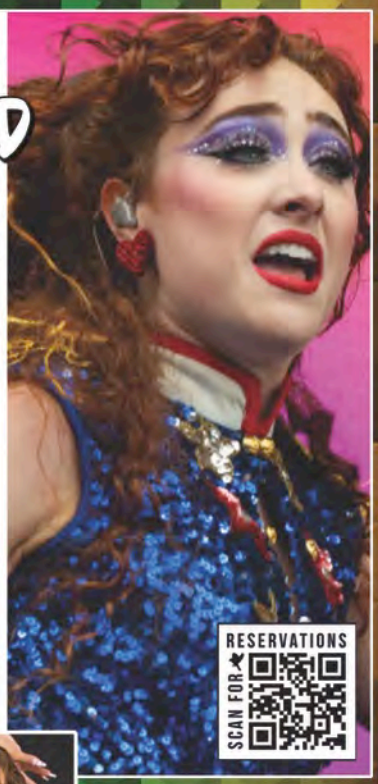

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SAT, JUNE 27, 1PM-6PM, **BEARS, BATHS & BEYOND** PRIDE EDITION W/ DJ JESSE MERCADO

SAT, JUNE 27, 11PM-5AM, **SATURDAY NIGTH** @ THE **BATHS** PRIDE EDITION W/ DJ J-DADDY

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12:45	PRIDE FEST DRAG SHOW
2:00	DURAND BERNARR
3:00	MIZ CRACKER
4:10	LITTLE MONSTERS: A TRIBUTE TO GAGA
5:40	CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE
6:00	PRIDE FEST DRAG SHOW
6:45	CAROLINE KINGSBURY
7:45	MNEK
8:45	ALEX CHAPMAN + ZOE GITTER PRESENT: GAG

SOUTH STAGE

WITH BOY J

1:00	CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS
2:00	CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE
2:30	THE DIVAS
4:00	WIC WHITNEY
5:30	TOO MUCH MOLLY BAND
8:00	SIXTEEN CANDLES

WAVELAND STAGE

12:00	VJ BRYAN
2:00	X-TASY
4:00	VIRAGO
6:00	DOGGPOUND
8:00	MR. PRETTY & FRIENDS

SUNDAY

CHICAGO PRIDEFEST

NORTH STAGE

WITH DJ LAURA B

12:00 MSUFCU PROUD PET PARADE WITH MISS FOOZIE PRESENTED BY HOLLYWOOD FEED START
12:30 FIREBRAND
1:00 PRIDE FEST DRAG SHOW
2:00 WILLA FORD
2:50 PRIDE FEST DRAG SHOW
3:45 ANTHONY RAPP
5:00 NINI COCO
5:30 CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE
6:00 DANCING QUEEN: AN ABBA SALUTE
8:00 FLYANA BOSS
8:50 BLACK GIRL MAGIC WITH THE VIXEN, YVIE ODDLY, AND HEIDI N CLOSET

SOUTH STAGE

WITH BOY J

1:00 MSUFCU PROUD PET PARADE WITH MISS FOOZIE PRESENTED BY HOLLYWOOD FEED END
1:30 CHICAGO SPIRIT BRIGADE
2:00 S@NIC HEALING
3:30 SECOND CITY OUTLAWS
4:00 HELLO WEEKEND
6:30 ROD TUFFCURLS & THE BENCHPRESS
9:00 G FLIP

WAVELAND STAGE

WITH SASH LOVE

12:00 DJ CA$H ERA
2:00 UNFRIENDLY BLACK HOTTIES
4:00 FACTORY CHICAGO
6:00 SAINT DEVERA
8:00 AVI SIC

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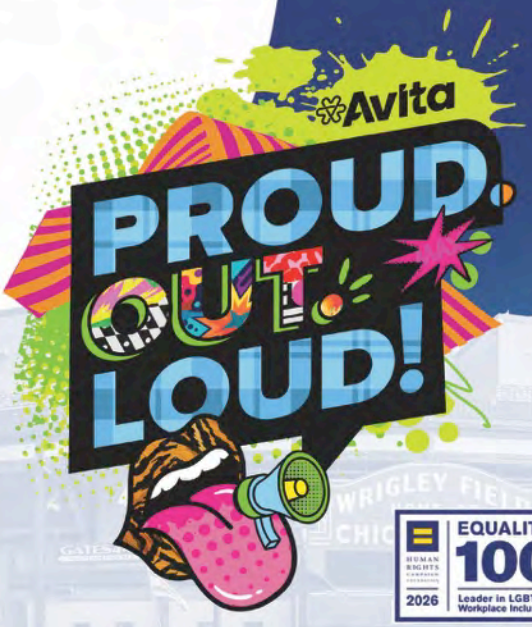

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MAY – OCTOBER

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MAY 16 – SEPTEMBER 5

Chicago Blues Festival
JUNE 4 – 7

Millennium Park Summer Music Series
MOST MONDAYS & THURSDAYS,
JUNE 15 – AUGUST 6

Taste of Chicago
JULY 8 – 12

Chicago Gospel Music Festival
JULY 24 – 25

Millennium Park Summer Film Series
TUESDAYS,
JUNE 30 – AUGUST 18

Chicago SummerDance
Night Out in the Parks
JULY – AUGUST

Spirit of Music Garden
AUGUST

Chicago Air and Water Show
AUGUST 15 – 16

Chicago House Music Festival & Conference
AUGUST 27 – 30

Chicago Jazz Festival
SEPTEMBER 3 – 6

World Music Festival Chicago
SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 4

Chicago Made Music Showcase Finale
OCTOBER 24

City Holiday Events
Tree Lighting Ceremony
NOVEMBER 20

Holiday Market
NOVEMBER 20 – 22

Holiday Sing Along
DECEMBER 4, 11, 18

New Year's Eve Celebration
DECEMBER 31

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PRIDE GEAR SWAP

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Daily Specials;

MONDAY	***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts***.@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlies:*** Half off Hennessy and Patron 7pm - 11pm ABC Bingo, 11pm Charlie's Live. ***Hydrate:*** Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Well Drinks.***Shakers on Clark:*** Comedy Night $1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, $5 Tecate Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.
TUESDAY	***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** $4 You Call It's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm BS Karaoke, 11pm Baddies Block Party. ***Hydrate:*** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 4-6pm $8 WINE, $9 APPS, $10 Martinis. Live Instrumentalists. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $3 Domestic Beers. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. ***Steamworks:*** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi, 6-9pm $3 Well Drinks $1 Off call-imports, $3 PBR/Rolling Rock.
WEDNESDAY	***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Boys and Booze. ***Jackhammer:*** $4 Premium Well Cocktails, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 4-6pm $8 WINE, $9 APPS, $10 Martinis. Live Broadway Vocalists. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am $5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. ***Shakers on Clark***: Karaoke Night $1 Off Long Islands. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua & Ariana last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Stoli Cocktails (All Flavors), $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** **Open 5pm-4am** Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check,
THURSDAY	***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 1pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month:$4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm Mother Rebirth, 10pm - Power up Reloaded. 2nd Thursday of the Month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Scissor Sisters. 4th Thursday of the Month: $4 You Call it's 5pm - 9pm, 8pm - 10pm the Pop Ball, 10pm Vinyl. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots, $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Tallboys, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 4-6pm $8 WINE, $9 APPS, $10 Martinis.Live Ballet.***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks,Karaoke 10pm-1am. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, "Let's Go! Thursday" Pop Music Videos in Glass/ Side Bars 9pm-2am. In Main Bar: Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month, other Thursdays are "Let's Go! Latin" or "All Things K-Pop. ***Steamworks:*** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Stoli Mules (All Flavors), EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays 70's & 80's Music & Porn By Bijou Video

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY	**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $3 House Shots, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 1pm-2am. **Charlie's**: 1st Friday of the Month 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Charlie's Presents. 2nd Friday:8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Glow Up. 3rd Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars, 11pm Thirst Trap. 4th Friday 8pm - 11pm Cage Fight Allstars 11pm Haus of Charlie's. **Jackhammer:** $8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, $8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag,Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** HAPPY HOUR (5-8 PM): $5 Chicago Handshakes, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $6 Tito's Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. **The Sofo Tap:** HAPPY HOUR (3-6 PM): $4 Signature Margaritas, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. 6/19 Cowboy Eound Up with ILGRA 6/26Leather & Fetish Pride Party
SATURDAY	***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Premium Well Cocktails, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 12pm-3am. ***Charlie's:*** 7pm - 11pm SCCDA Country Dancing, 11pm Under the boots tonight. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots, $8 New Amsterdam & Red Bulls, $8 WYNK THC, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag,Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** HAPPY HOUR (2-5 PM): $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat Drafts, $5 Signature Margaritas, $8 WYNK THC, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. ***The Sofo Tap:*** HAPPY HOUR: (12-3 PM): 1/2 Off All Draft Beers, ALL DAY SPECIALS: $5 Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Signature Margaritas, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 5am. 6/20 GEAR NIGHT with BLUF/Chicago Barber & Bootblack on duty dress code in Club Room BNC 6pm. 6/27 RIPE with Pride Party Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes.
SUNDAY FUNDAY	***2 Bears Tavern Uptown:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $6 Chicago Handshakes, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $6 Jack Products, $4 Domestic Draft, House Shots $2. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 12pm-2am ***Charlie's:*** 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month5pm - 7pm Queeriod, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo, y Perreo. 2nd Sunday 5pm -7pm Queeriod Presents Drag U 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. 4th Sunday 5pm - 7pm Queeriod Presents Boyfriend Material, 7pm - 11pm Starlight Karaoke, 11pm Estrellas, Ritmo y Perreo. ***Hydrate:*** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. ***Jackhammer:*** HAPPY HOUR (3-7 PM): $3 House Shots, $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $7 Jackhammered Long Islands, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Pool & Darts. **Kit Kat Lounge:** All Day Brunch All Drag,Brunch Seating Times 11am and 1:30PM. Sunday Tea Dance DJ Janky and Friends 4pm-10pm $9 Martinis. ***.Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $5 Premium Well Cocktails, $12 Mimosa Carafes, $3 House Shots, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm ***Shakers on Clark***: $1 off Bloody Mary's, $1 off Tito's Mules, and $1 off all Revolution beers.. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at Noon, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am . ***The Sofo Tap:*** HAPPY HOUR (1-3 PM): $3 House Shots, FREE Hotdogs (while supplies last) ALL DAY SPECIALS: $6 New Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Miller Lite Drafts, EVERYDAY SPECIALS: $4 Tallboy Beers (Old Style, PBR, Hamm's), $5 Jägermeister, Fireball & Malört Shots, FREE Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust $2 Draughts & Sodas Clubroom opens 6pm Movie Night 7pm. 6/28 Pride ParaDE DAY COOK OUT 3-7PM FULL MOON Party.

The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and online
Tuesday July 28th, 2026 (Market Days Issue)
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GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of June 2026

Visit nexusradio.fm

	Artist	Title
1	Madonna	I feel So Free
2	The Chainsmokers x Oaks	Echo
3	Jennifer Lopez & David Guetta	Save Me Tonight
4	Kshmr x Jason Ross x Brieanna Grace	Ultra Love
5	Old Jim x Arty x Alexandra Stan x Ceres	In My Head
6	DJ Pauly D	Feel It
7	Open Till L8	Hold Onto Me Ft. Jay Sean
8	GUDFELLA	Morning Coffee
9	Marshmello x Portugal The Man	Phoenix
10	HUGEL x Imael Angel x Ultra Nate	Movin' To The Sun
11	Bleona	Boy Gone Bad (Damon Sharpe Remix)
12	Honeyluv x Muni Long	Don't Stop
13	Pigine	One More Sunday
14	Harry Styles	Aperture
15	SLANDER ft. John Martin	Do You Feel Loved
16	Manuel Riva X Great Adamz	Shake
17	Karrion x Kaden Meza x Disco Fries	Smooth
18	Madonna & Sabrina Carpenter	Bring Your Love
19	Kastra & Josh Rubin	Wait
20	Above & Beyond And Zoe Johnston	Carry Me Home
21	Alexandra Stan x FAULHABER	No Sleep
22	Katrina Woolverton x Riddler x Ethan Capps	All Over Me
23	Loud Luxury x Sadboi	Out Late
24	Krewella	Without You
25	Seven Lions & Brieanna Grace	Free
26	Dancingfaraz	Supernova
27	Peking Duk	Thrills Ft. Rico Nasty
28	Tritonal x Harlee	Walk Away
29	Valentino Khan & No Me	What Can I Say
30	Danny L Harle & Dua Lipa	Two Hearts

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PRIDEChicago Kicks Off Pride Month at Sidetrack, Unveils 2026 Parade Theme and Honorees

PRIDEChicago, the all-volunteer organization behind the iconic Chicago Pride Parade, officially launched the city's Pride Month festivities on Sunday, June 7, with a community celebration at Sidetrack.

The afternoon gathering honored local LGBTQ+ trailblazers and grassroots organizations while building momentum for the annual parade, which steps off at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 28, from Grace Street and Broadway.

The kickoff drew a large crowd of advocates, community members, and supporters—including Ald. Bennett Lawson (44th)—to toast the parade's enduring legacy as a cornerstone of visibility and advocacy for Chicago's LGBTQ+ community.

PRIDEChicago Board Chair ***Steve Long*** introduced this year's official theme, "Free to Be Proud," calling the message both intentional and declarative.

"Pride has never been just about celebration—it is about visibility, dignity, resilience, and the right to exist safely and authentically," Long told the crowd. "It is a reminder that no one is truly free until everyone is free to be."

Longtime organizer ***Tim Frye*** joined Long in recognizing the extensive year-round efforts of the organization's entirely volunteer leadership. The current Board of Directors includes A***lex Riolo, Dan Nisbet, Daniel Ortiz, Ron Thomas, Steve Long,*** *Tim Frye*, and ***Terra Campbell***. The Auxiliary Board includes ***Halley Felty, James Gibbs, Ricky Moats***, and ***Terrence Chappell***, with ***Dr. Maya Green*** serving on the Advisory Board.

A central highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the 2026 "Out Front" Group distinction, which celebrates grassroots organizations providing vital, lifeline services. Board members *Terra Campbell* and *Daniel Ortiz* presented the honor to the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, recognizing its profound impact on local advocacy in Humboldt Park. Board Treasurer ***Ron Thomas*** followed the presentation by awarding a $5,000 donation to the center on behalf of PRIDEChicago.

The event also spotlighted the 2026 Community Grand Marshals, selected through a public nomination process to reflect the spirit of this year's theme.

This year's honorees include ***Tracy Baim, Evette Cardona***, and *Mona Noriega*, alongside the Alliance of Illinois Judges. The Alliance was represented at the event by Judges ***Matthew Jannusch*** and ***Jill Rose Quinn***. Quinn is the first openly trans elected official in Illinois and became the fourth openly trans judge in U.S. history when elected in 2024.

Hosted by Sidetrack and General Manager ***Brad Balof***, the annual gathering functioned as both a civic celebration and a community-wide call to action as Chicago prepares for one of the nation's most historic Pride processions later this month.

For more information visit: ***www.PrideChicago.org org***

CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 | 11AM

PRIDE CHICAGO

FREE TO BE PROUD

PRIDE CHICAGO 2026

PARADE INFORMATION

DATE: Sunday, June 28th
TIME: 11A.M.

STARTS at: West Sheridan & Broadway (viewing starts at Grace & Broadway)

ROUTE: Proceeds south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

DESCRIPTION: The 55th annual Chicago Pride Parade will showcase 155 registered entries, including vibrant floats, decorated vehicles, performing groups, marching band, and walking contingents. The nearly 15,000 participants represent a diverse mix of community organizations, businesses, government officials, and individual community members.

THEME: "Free to Be Proud" is intentional and declarative. Pride has never been just about celebration — it is about visibility, dignity, resilience, and the right to exist safely and authentically. It is a reminder that no one is truly free until everyone is free to be.

GRAND MARSHALS: The 2026 Honorary Grand Marshals—***Tracy Baim***, ***Mona Noriega***, ***Evette Cardona***, and the Alliance of Illinois Judges—are visionary leaders whose work embodies the movement's commitment to freedom, visibility, justice, and community.
OUT FRONT COMMUNITY GROUP: The Puerto Rican Cultural Center is being recognized for its tireless work in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood to dismantle homophobia and transphobia while seamlessly integrating LGBTQ+ advocacy into the core of public health and housing justice.

HISTORY: Inspired by the Stonewall Riots, Chicago made history as the first city to host a Gay Liberation March. On June 27, 1970, a modest but purposeful group of 100-150 participants gathered at Washington Square Park (Bughouse Square) and marched to the Civic Center (now Daley Center). This inaugural march, held a day before similar events in New York City and Los Angeles, laid the foundation for the modern Pride movement. It was a bold assertion of LGBTQ+ rights and visibility during a time of intense discrimination.

ORGANIZERS: The Chicago Pride Parade is produced by PRIDEChicago, a volunteer-powered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Through the annual Chicago Pride Parade and year-round advocacy efforts, PRIDEChicago honors the legacy of those who came before us while investing in the future of LGBTQ+ communities in Chicago and across Illinois. (**pridechicago.org**).

$1000 Fine FOR PUBLIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

The parade will have more security and a tighter rein on public alcohol consumption. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to, $1000+ tickets being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcohol into trash receptacles. Public urination is also grounds to receive a ticket.

PARADE DAY HEALTH/ SAFETY:

Bring plenty of bottled water, sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, and dress lightly because parade day is usually hot and sunny.

STREET CLOSURES: (Please pay close attention to no parking signs posted on the parade route for the parade.)

ASSEMBLY AREA: Tentative time: 9 a.m.

PARADE ROUTE: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. The parade starts at 11A.M. at the Broadway/ Sheridan corner proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

NO PARKING: Both the Assembly Area and Parade Route will be posted with temporary signs indicating ***"NO PARKING ON SUNDAY JUNE 29,2025, Parking restrictions start at 5 a.m. on Sunday, June 29th. Some parking restrictions lift at 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on***

Sunday, June 29th.Check posted temporary parking signs.
TOWING: Due to the volume of vehicles involved, the issuing of parking violation citations and towing will start at 2 a.m. on Sunday, June 29TH.

CROSS STREETS: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. After stepping off at 11:00 AM, the parade will take approximately two and one-half hours to finish.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: From the Red Line: Addison, Belmont, and Sheridan transit stations are all within a short walking distance of the parade route. Please note: the Sheridan station is not ADA accessible.
From the Brown Line: The Belmont transit station is within walking distance of the parade route. The Belmont station (and the surrounding area) tends to become congested.
PLEASE NOTE: The Belmont station (and the surrounding area) tends to become the most crowded, so you are encouraged to consider watching the parade from the other parts of the route, including along Broadway south of Belmont. In addition, a number of lakefront bus routes including the 146 and 151 provide convenient access from the north, the Gold Coast/North Michigan Avenue and downtown to areas east of the parade route.

Extra service will be provided on the "L' on parade day to accommodate the large numbers of people who attend the parade. Due to the increase of local traffic and a number of bus reroutes, potential parade spectators are advised to make use of the L or the various bus routes.

For Buses and bus reroutes, check CTA Bus Tracker or visit ***transitchicago.com.***

Metra will offer expanded service on several of their lines on parade day, visit ***metra.com***

Cooling Buses: if needed, will be available at the following locations:
Waveland west of Halsted
Addison west of Halsted
Roscoe east of Halsted
Belmont west of Halsted
Belmont and Broadway

PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER STREETS:

Addison at Halsted, Cornelia at Halsted, Buckingham at Halsted, Briar Place at Broadway, and Wellington at Broadway

At each corner of the streets listed above there will be police officers assigned to assist pedestrians to cross the parade route.

NEEDS AND SPECIAL NEEDS:

Portable Restrooms - are stationed along both the parade line-up street and the parade route. Included at several locations are restrooms for the physically challenged.

Physically Challenged Area/Wheel chair Accessible Area/Seniors - for people who need or want more space: the sidewalks of West Diversey Parkway (near 600 W. Diversey). Traditionally this area of the parade route has fewer spectators than other sections of the parade route. Spectators in these areas generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

Seniors (outdoor) - Diversey & Broadway (600 W. Diversey sidewalks) is a designated OUTDOOR area for seniors. Spectators in this area generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.

Chicago Fire Department First Aid Stations:
Addison west of Halsted
Roscoe east and west of Halsted
Aldine west of Halsted
Surf east of Broadway

PORTABLE RESTROOMS:
Stationed along both the parade route and the staging area.

SAFETY TIPS:
- Report suspicious activity to 9-1-1
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Have a meeting spot
- Know your location
- Stay Hydrated

ALERTS: OEMC issues alerts and notifications needed to keep residents and attendees up to date on weather conditions and emergencies. Sign up for NotifyChicago alerts at ***notifychicago.org***

KNOW YOUR LOCATION (Pole Markers): Temporary pole identifiers are visible from light poles throughout the parade route to mark the location. Look up for the black signs with white lettering. Call 9-1-1 to give the letter-number combinations on the pole nearest to your location to help first responders locate you as quickly as possible. You can also use the identifiers to let friends and family know where you are if you become separated at the event.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:
- Alcohol
- Bicycles, Scooters
- Coolers
- Drones
- Fireworks
- Folding Chairs
- Propane, Propane Tanks
- Tents, Canopies, or Structures
- Tripods, Monopos, Selfie Sticks
- Vending
- Weapons

For more information visit:
www.PrideChicago.org org
Email:
info@pridechicago.org
773-348-8243.

PARADE GRAND MARSHALS

Tracy Baim, has been named a 2026 Community Grand Marshal for her decades of work documenting LGBTQ+ life and activism in Chicago and beyond. A journalist and historian, Baim is executive director of Press Forward Chicago and co-founder and owner of Windy City Times. Her leadership and contributions have earned multiple lifetime achievement honors, including inductions into the Chicago Headline Club, the Chicago Journalists Association, the Association for Women Journalists–Chicago Hall of Fame, and the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Baim is also a co-founder of Pride Action Tank and the Illinois LGBT Chamber of Commerce, served as co–vice chair of Gay Games VII in Chicago, and founded the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality in 2013. Baim has authored or edited 14 books preserving LGBTQ+ history.

Mona Noriega has been named a 2026 Community Grand Marshal for her decades of leadership advancing civil rights and equity. A Chicago-born Chicana lesbian and mother of two, Noriega serves on the board of Equality Illinois. Her career includes opening the Midwest office of Lambda Legal, serving as its Midwest director. Noriega was appointed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker to serve as chair of the Illinois Commission on Human Rights from 2021 to 2024, and previously served as commissioner and board chair of the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations under Mayors Rahm Emanuel and Lori Lightfoot. During her tenure, civil rights protections were expanded under Chicago's anti-discrimination ordinances. She holds master's degrees from the University of Illinois Chicago and was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2002 alongside her wife, Evette Cardona.

Evette Cardona has also been named a 2026 Community Grand Marshal for her long career in philanthropy and community leadership. A Puerto Rican lesbian and native Chicagoan, Cardona retired in May 2025 from the Polk Bros. Foundation after 27 years, most recently serving as vice president of programs.A graduate of the University of Chicago's Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Cardona has received multiple honors for leadership and professional achievement and has taught courses in philanthropy and public policy. She is a co-founder of Women of All Colors and Cultures Together and Amigas Latinas and was a founding board member of Center on Halsted. She continues to serve on the steering committees of Chicago Latines in Philanthropy and the Illinois Immigration Funders Collaborative.

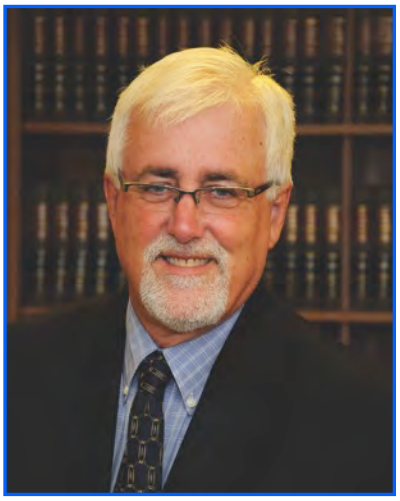
Parade Route
Chicago 55th Annual Pride Parade

(The Parade is scheduled each year for the last Sunday in June)

GRAB ROGER

Your Estate Planning and Your IRA

By Roger V. McCaffre-Boss, Esq.



Your individual retirement account (IRA) is often one of your most valuable, yet least monitored assets. Many people all but ignore their IRAs, sometimes to the extreme detriment of their families. It is important to understand how your IRAs fit into your plan and what steps should be taken to preserve these assets.

Your Will May Not Govern Your IRA. Generally, if you name someone as beneficiary of your life insurance, IRAs and employee benefits – such as 401(k) and pension and profit-sharing plans – that asset won't be subject to probate, will not pass through a will, but will go to a named beneficiary, even a divorced spouse.

It is important to understand that an IRA is a contract between the employer (or plan administrator) and the beneficiary. When a beneficiary designation form is signed, the distribution of your plan is governed solely by that beneficiary designation form and not any other legal documents you may have executed, even a divorce decree or will.

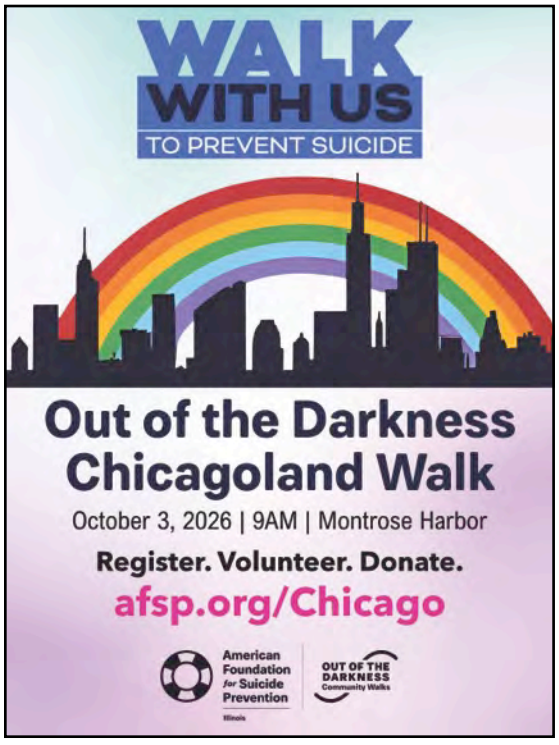
Always Designate a Contingent Beneficiary. If the beneficiary whom you designate on the plan administrator's beneficiary designation form predeceases you and you have not named a back-up beneficiary, your IRA will be distributed according to the default terms of the IRA agreement, which vary, but often result in the IRA becoming an asset of your estate.

This is not ideal as the IRA will then be subject to probate administration, associated fees, and probable liquidation in order to be distributed pursuant to the terms of your will. In addition, the benefits of extended tax-deferred compounding would be lost without the availability of a stretch IRA scenario – a scenario in which the IRA is inherited by the designated beneficiary who must only take out required minimum distributions (RMDs) based on his or her lifetime, thus allowing the IRA to continue to grow, potentially for generations. For these same reasons, you also should not name your estate as the beneficiary of your IRA.

Review and Maintain a Copy of Your Signed and Dated Beneficiary Designation Forms. As businesses are acquired, merged, and continue to go paperless, the chances of the plan administrator misplacing or misfiling your beneficiary designation form significantly increase. Accordingly, you should always maintain a current copy of your IRA beneficiary designation form and review it regularly.

Anytime you experience a life event such as marriage, divorce, and the birth of a child, you should use that as an opportunity to review your beneficiary designation on file with the IRA plan administrator. As is the case when no back-up beneficiary is named, without a beneficiary designation form on file, the IRA will be distributed according to the terms of the IRA agreement.

An IRA Cannot Be Paid to a Minor Child. Minors cannot sign paperwork to open an inherited IRA, manage the investments, or request RMDs, thus they cannot be designated beneficiaries of an inherited IRA without also naming an account custodian. If you did name your minor child as the beneficiary of your IRA, the unwanted court proceedings may be required to appoint a custodian to receive the plan benefits on behalf of your child. For larger accounts, a trust for the benefit of the minor may be named as the beneficiary of the IRA, to be managed by a trustee. If the trust is drafted appropriately to hold an IRA, the inherited IRA will pay RMDs to the trust for distribution to the beneficiary in accordance with the trust's distribution provisions and the inherited IRA may continue to grow.



*Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a gradute of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at **RVMLawyer@aol.com**. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

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GRAB HOLLY

Donut Time Runs Out of Time

By Holly Maholm

There was a crowd gathered on the green opposite Donut Time. Not a large, unruly crowd (after all, this was Wellington, where Midwestern expectations of polite, restrained behavior are scrupulously observed), but a "crowd" nonetheless. The time was 3:00 pm – the normal closing time for Donut Time - when the last stragglers were ejected, the front door locked, and a CLOSED sign hung in the window. But this day – unlike every other closing time – there would be no OPEN sign expected the next morning. This was the day Donut Time closed forever.

The crowd included the Retirees, who mourned the demise of their favorite gathering place, offering coffee, donuts and the opportunity to groom one of the rescue horses (often a unicorn in disguise). Also sharing in that grief were Gary (of the bank), Chet (manager of the feed store and El Supremo of the High Council of our town's Patriarchy), Mike (pastor of the congregation that meets in the disused Methodist Church), and Dave, Mike's spouse (Tribune of the Roman soldiers-in-training at the high school).

All watched in silence as a truck drove up to Donut Time, where Fender and Recon unloaded several sheets of plywood, then proceeded to nail them up covering the windows and front door of that Temple Devoted to the Worship of Caffeinated Beverages and Sugary Treats. "How," you ask, "did things come to this sad conclusion?"

Well… just days before, Xandra, Cindy and I (co-owners of Donut Time) had toured a new coffee-chain start-up under construction in a nearby city, as a result of which we came to one inescapable realization… that Money Talks and Bullshit Walks. That coffee-chain startup – named ChatCafe – was funded by Private Equity ("PE"), and that mysterious entity (for its own no less mysterious reasons) was offering to pay us – owners of Donut Time – an Obscenely Excessive and Objectively Unreasonable Amount of Money to close down our (competing) coffee shop.

Now, I had reached retirement age a decade ago, so I was past caring about that Gratuitously Large Pile of Money on offer, but Xandra and Cindy were getting older, and they had no savings to fund their retirements. Accordingly, I readily agreed we should accept the ChatCafe offer, as only a fool refuses "an offer you can't refuse."

Once Xandra, Cindy and I learned how much we would be paid as the Sales Price for Donut Time (that amount being irrefutable evidence that when PE has a problem, its preferred solution is to just throw money at it until it surrenders), we made plans to close Donut Time. Xandra and Cindy would each receive one-third of that Windfall, but I decided I would gift my one-third among the others who contributed so much to the success of our business. Hence, I divided my one-third among Aly, Phyllis, Blair, Martha, Recon and Fender. (Xandra would take care of Grandma Lily from her one-third, and Aly would take care of Tuco.)

The Contract of Sale we signed with PE obligated us to close Donut Time on the day prior to the opening of the new ChatCafe facility in Wellington. Soon, we were informed that PE had decided to build a new building like the one we had toured, and in short order PE purchased a vacant lot on the green and began construction of the new ChatCafe location. The Donut Time building would be boarded-up and abandoned.

All seemed to be proceeding as expected when the "unexpected" intervened. (That's what 'unexpected things" do – they don't just "happen, occur or transpire," they "intervene.") I was summoned to the Horse Rescue, where I found Queen Penelope waiting. She was standing in her most Majestic and Imperious Posture in the middle of the pole barn, where she was surrounded by no fewer than a dozen other senior unicorns, including Victor (her Protector) and Sassy Pants (her Chief Attendant). I was escorted to a place in the center of that group, where nothing might "intervene" to protect me from so many forbiddingly lethal (albeit "magical") horns.

The Queen spoke. "Holly, I have been given to understand that you have entered into a contract that will result in Donut Time being closed forever. Was I misinformed?" "No, Your Majesty," I replied. "But how could this be?" she went on. "You know very well how dependent we unicorns are upon the donuts that you and your fellow humans produce. How could you do anything to frustrate our expectations of future supplies of those most delicious treats?"

She scowled disapprovingly and went on, "This is unacceptable! You must immediately repudiate that ill-considered agreement you have made. I expect you to ensure that I and my fellow unicorns will suffer no interruption in our supply of donuts, fritters, eclairs, paczkis, croissants, crullers and Bear Claws. I command you!" My heart sank. What was I to do?

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at ***www.hollymaholm.com.***

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MILWAUKEE SUMMERFEST THREE WEEKENDS JUNE18-20, JUNE 25-27, and JULY 2-4

SUMMERFEST
June 18-20 • June 25-27 • July 2-4 • 2026
MILWAUKEE WORLD FESTIVAL, INC.

Summerfest presented by American Family Insurance is one of the most iconic celebrations of music in America, hosting the industry's biggest acts for an unforgettable live music experience. Since its inception in 1968, Summerfest continues to distinguish itself as a premier independent national music festival and has developed an unrivaled reputation, consistently featuring hundreds of performances across 12 stages, throughout the 75-acre festival grounds along Lake Summerfest will take place over three weekends – June 18-20, June 25-27, and July 2-4, 2026.

The Summerfest 2026 lineup features two nights with Garth Brooks—the best-selling solo artist in U.S. history—who will kick off the event with concerts at the American Family Insurance Amphitheater, the festival's largest stage, on June 16 and 17.

Additional artists set to perform at the 23,000-seat Amphitheater during Summerfest include: Megan Moroney with Solon Holt and JP Saxe on June 18, Don Toliver with SahBabii, Che, SoFayGo, sosocamo, Chase B, and Lelo on June 19, Carín León on June 20, Ed Sheeran with Myles Smith and Arron Rowe June 25, Cody Johnson with Jessie Murph on June 26, Post Malone with Carter Faith on June 27, Muse with Julia Wolf and Temper City July 2, Alex Warren with Noah Cyrus on July 3, and Jelly Roll with Tyler Hubbard and Three 6 Mafia on July 4.

Across the festival's grounds stages, featured performers include: Louis Tomlinson, Subtronics, Tucker Wetmore, Ella Mai, Sean Paul, Amyl and The Sniffers, Passion Pit, Hot Mulligan, Tash Sultana, Halestorm, Spoon, All Time Low, Echo & The Bunnymen, Styx, Charlie Wilson, Father John Misty, Audrey Nuna, Flo Rida, Sam Barber, Marcus King Band, The Revivalists, Whiskey Myers, Grouplove, Elderbrook, Buju Banton, KALEO, Tyrese, Nate Smith, flipturn, Third Eye Blind, The Temper Trap, Russell Dickerson, Wolfmother, David Lee Roth, Gene Simmons Band, The Academy Is..., Pepper, Christopher Cross, Candlebox, Goldfinger, Cameron Whitcomb, The Beths, Holly Humberstone, BØRNS, Jonah Kagen, Rev Run of Run DMC, The Mountain Goats, Mariachi Sol De Mexico, The Family Stone, Petey USA, State Champs, Evan Honer, Dora Jar, and many more.

From immersive art, to opening day giveaways, and celebrating America's 250th, there's something for every music fan. Highlights include:

The American Family Insurance House with artist meet and greets and intimate sets featuring Cameron Whitcomb, Passion Pit, Grouplove, Spin Doctors, Spoon, Soul Asylum, and many more.

Radiant Echoes by Fuzzpop Workshop - an immersive interactive multi-sensory art installation on the north end of the grounds.

T-Mobile Club Magenta -the ultimate festival oasis, designed to keep fans cool and connected

Opening Day festivities on June 18 kick off with a special fan giveaway – the first 10,000 attendees through the gates will receive a limited-edition Summerfest trucker hat, courtesy of American Family Insurance.

Summerfest's Official Celebration of America's 250th presented by Harley Davidson on July 4 with fireworks and gate giveaway for the first 5,000 patrons.

For more information visit Summerfest.com or download the Official Summerfest App

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THE BRISTOL RENAISSANCE FAIRE IS SET TO OPEN JULY 11

For countless merrymakers, costumed adventurers, and curious first-time visitors, summer in the Midwest simply wouldn't be complete without a trip to the legendary Bristol Renaissance Faire. Returning for its 2026 season from July 11 through Labor Day Monday, September 7, the Faire transforms more than 30 wooded acres near the Illinois/ Wisconsin border into a lively 16th Century village bursting with music, laughter, spectacle, and larger-than-life characters. Just a short journey from both Chicago and Milwaukee, guests are invited to leave modern life at the gates and lose themselves in a world of daring performers, whimsical villagers, savory feasts, handcrafted treasures, and nonstop revelry. FEASTING Go on a stroll through the village with a colossal Roasted Turkey Leg, a juicy Steak-On-A-Stake or one of the many scrumptious vegetarian delights like the ever-popular Garlic Mushrooms or Chocolate-Covered Strawberries. Delicious Steamed Artichokes, Gelato, Fruit Ice, Monkey Tails, Cheese Fritters and Ice Cream Crepes are some of the Faire's other popular offerings on its 80+ item menu. For the thirsty, craft brews, ciders, cocktails, teas, sodas and other refreshing beverages are readily available. Gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian options are available.

Take home a memory from one of the over 125 artisan shops where you can find everything from handmade chain maille, Scottish kilts and handcrafted leather masks to Steampunk adornments, soaps, jewelry and beautiful floral wreaths for the hair.

The entertainment at the Bristol Renaissance Faire is to be found at every turn, in the village streets and on one of the many stages where you'll find daredevil acrobats, soulful musicians, side-splitting comedians, full- contact jousts and hundreds of costumed performers who bring the city of Bristol to life!

A wonderland of rides and games await you at the Faire! The Sword Master's Challenge, a 40-Foot climbing wall, four escape rooms, 'DaVinci's Flying Machine', and the age-old, but ever-popular 'Vegetable Justice'.

For more information visit **http://www.RENFAIR.COM/Bristol.**

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CATCH AS CATCH CAN JUNE 4- JULY 12 IN STEPPENWOLF'S DOWNSTAIRS THEATER

Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the nation's premier ensemble theater company, is pleased to conclude its 50th Anniversary Season with the Chicago premiere of Mia Chung's theatrical tour-de-force Catch as Catch Can, directed by ensemble member ***Amy Morton***, playing June 4 – July 12, 2026 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St.

When a prodigal son returns to blue collar New England, his homecoming sets off a spiraling crisis for two families, threatening not only their relationships but their very identities. In Mia Chung's wildly inventive Catch as Catch Can, three actors take on six roles, bridging generation and gender.

Tickets are now on sale at ***steppenwolf.org*** or the Box Office at (312) 335-1650.

TIN DRUM THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THE CHICAGO PREMIERE OF SOUTHERN RAPTURE BY ERIC COBLE, JUNE 11 - 28, AT THEATER WIT

Tin Drum Theatre Company has announced the cast and creative team for the Chicago premiere of Southern Rapture at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., June 11 - 28, written by ***Eric Coble*** and directed by ***Jason Palmer.***

In the heart of the Bible Belt, a local theatre company announces it will stage a play called Rapture in America—complete with seven seconds of male nudity—sending the city into a frenzy. Based on actual events, Eric Coble's Southern Rapture turns this civic eruption into a wickedly funny satire about artistic freedom, arts funding, the weaponization of civic institutions and what happens when conviction outruns common sense.

Originally commissioned by Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, Southern Rapture draws directly from one of the city's most explosive cultural battles. In 1996, Charlotte Repertory Theatre announced a production of Angels in America.. The district attorney attempted to bring criminal charges, however, emergency court injunctions required the show to open. "Good Morning America" broadcast a train-wreck debate, turning a local arts dispute into a national spectacle.

Eighteen months later, county commissioners retaliated by slashing $2.5 million in arts funding, destabilizing organizations across the city. Although much of that funding was later restored, the interruption sent lasting ripples through Charlotte's artistic landscape. Charlotte Rep won the Angels battle, but the controversy produced long-term consequences that cost it the war. Amid donor fatigue, mounting financial strain and leadership turnover, the company closed permanently in 2005.

The Southern Rapture ensemble cast includes ***Teddy Boone*** (he/him, Mayor Winston Paxton), ***Shannon Leigh Webber*** (she/her, Marjorie Winthrop), ***Michael Stejskal*** (he/him, Donald Sherman), ***Mary Anne Bowman*** (she/her, ***Allissa Marquand***, ***Nyla-Jean Geisy***, Julia Overmyer), Jenny Hoppes (she/her, Laverne Jackson, Pam, Clarice Paxton, Tina), ***Jordan Gleaves*** (he/him, Simon Larisher, Emmett Whipple, Nightline Host, Franklin McManus) and ***Andrew Bosworth*** (he/him, Mickey Stedman, Reverend Dupree, Anton Finewitz).

The performance schedule is Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are $30 with $15 student tickets and may be purchased at ***http://www.TinDrumTheatre.com.***

HIGHLAND PARK PLAYERS PRESENTS BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL AT THE MCGRATH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER JULY 17-26

The Highland Park Players are proud to present the Tony Award-winning Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, running July 17–26 at the McGrath Performing Arts Center, located at 3461 Illinois Road in Wilmette.

Performances will take place on July 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25 at 7:30 p.m., with matinee performances on July 19, 25, and 26 at 2:00 p.m.

Directed by ***Catherine Davis***, Beautiful tells the inspiring true story of Carole King's rise from teenage songwriter to one of the most celebrated solo artists in music history. Featuring beloved hits including *"You've Got a Friend," "One Fine Day," "Will You Love Me Tomorrow,"* and many more, the musical celebrates the soundtrack of a generation.

Tickets now Available at **www.highlandparkplayers.org**

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID WILL HIT THE UPTOWN MUSIC THEATER STAGE THIS SUMMER IN DEERFIELD, IL JULY 18-AUGUST 2

The cherished Broadway musical - Disney's The Little Mermaid - will hit the Uptown Music Theater stage this summer in Deerfield, IL, directed by Tor Campbell, choreographed by Zak Jacobs, music directed and conducted by Aaron Kaplan, and featuring the acclaimed 24-piece JAM Orchestra.

Adored by multi-generational audiences, Disney's The Little Mermaid is a spectacular and beautiful love story for the ages - about identity, community, and finding the strength of your inner voice. Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter dreams of exploring the human world and falling in love. After bargaining with Ursula the evil sea witch to trade her tail for legs, Ariel needs the help of her colorful friends, Flounder the fish, Scuttle the seagull and Sebastian the crab to restore order under the sea. With its irresistible songs, including "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl," and "Part of Your World," Disney's The Little Mermaid will capture your heart!

Tickets now available at **- https://www.uptownhp.org/shows/disneys-the-little-mermaid**

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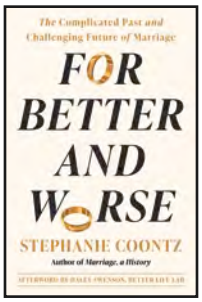
By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"For Better and Worse: The Complicated Past and Challenging Future of Marriage"
by Stephanie Coontz c.2026, Viking $30.00 304 pages


The Complicated Past and Challenging Future of Marriage
FOR BETTER AND WORSE
STEPHANIE COONTZ
Author of Marriage, a History

You do.

Or maybe you don't. Or you did once and said never again because, as you know, marriage isn't for everyone; in fact, it's the rare couple that stays hitched for the long-term. So did you – or didn't you? Either way, check out "For Better and Worse" by Stephanie Coontz and see how marriage as an institution has been through sickness and health.

It's considered by most Americans to be one of the most important forms of commitment that two adults can make together.

And, says Coontz, eventually, most of us do make that commitment by getting married. Today, though, we do it later than did Americans in the past. She says that's perhaps because, as studies indicate, people worry today that they won't have the kind of union that they want.

So how did we get here?

In ancient times, if a person wanted to formalize a union with someone else, there were options: different cultures practiced polyandry, polygamy, same-sex marriage, and even marriage between a living person and a dead one. Some of those unions, by the way, are still practiced by certain societies, including ours.

In the earliest years of Christianity, total celibacy was the pinnacle of morality, according to Church leaders, and so marriage wasn't encouraged. Minds were changed, though: by the early thirteenth century, marriage became a sacrament, and abstinence was considered to be a danger to one's health.

In Medieval times, marriage was an expectation, often an arrangement for political purposes with the hope that the couple could at least get along. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, marriage was much more equal, perhaps, than it was in the 1950s. Later, marriage became patriarchal, and women were fully expected to "obey" their husbands. Marriage precursors were courting and dating, the definitions of which changed; meanwhile, men sometimes slept with men and birthrates for unmarried women waxed and waned.

And on that note, wait til you read about mother's "'lover'" in the nineteenth century…

How many wedding invitations have you gotten this year? One, three, more? No matter: "For Better and Worse" will give you plenty of topics for small-talk at the reception.

In her introduction, author Stephanie Coontz says that this book is not an encouragement for marriage, nor is it a warning. Instead, she shows how the institution of marriage has changed over the centuries, in an informative but still lighthearted way that's quite delightful. Readers who think they know what a "traditional" marriage is may be shocked to see what actually was traditional; there's validation here, if you want it – and surprise, if you don't.

There's something inside "For Better and Worse" for feminists eschewing the institution, for LGBTQ readers who are thinking about marriage, and history and happy tales for anyone who proudly stands next to a partner of many years. It won't change your mind about the ceremony or the union, but it may make you see controversy more clearly.

In this month for weddings, don't you need a book like this?

You do.

"Books for a Pre-Pride Celebration"
by various authors c.2026, various publishers $19.99 - $39.95 various page counts

You're all geared up.

You've got your best parade-walking shoes, your coolest tee, your most-comfortable shorts, and a rainbow flag to carry. You're set for Pride, but before you go, try one of these great new books about LGBTQ life and history…

After the parade, where will you end up? A place to talk your experience over, to re-hash things for the next parade? Then you may need "The Lesbian Bar Chronicles: The Living History and Hopeful Future of America's Dyke Dives and Sapphic Spaces" by Rachel Karp (Beacon Press, $29.95).

Lesbian bars, says Karp, are more than just places to drink. They're also places to find community, and to organize. For many, she says, they are "sanctuaries," as they have been for at least a century, and this book introduces you to some of the people who run the establishments, the things they do to support their patrons, and the hundred-year-plus bravery that it took to own, run, and enter a lesbian bar.

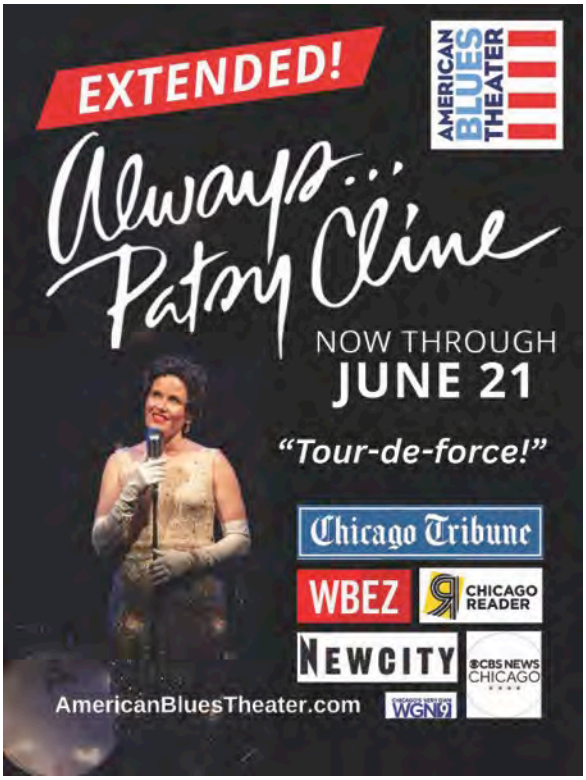
If you had to name a gay icon, there are probably quite a few who come to mind. So read "Without Prejudice: My Life as a Gay Judge" by Harvey Brownstone (ECW Press, $21.95) and add another name to your list.

This memoir, written by Canada's first openly gay judge, takes readers from Brownstone's childhood to his life as a lawyer, then to his work within the justice system in Ontario, and beyond, to his current career. This is a surprising, informative book that gives you an idea what gay life is like, north of our uppermost borders, then and now.

Pride is a celebration, an event, but it also demands a peek backwards, and in "The LGBTQ Almanac: 500 Years of Queer Culture in American History" by Deborah G. Felder (Visible Ink Press, $39.95), you'll get a wide look at the pioneers, allies, policy, and gay life over the course of the last five centuries. Want to know more about religion in the gay community? It's in here, along with celebrities, presidents, science, business, and more. This is the kind of book that settles bets. It's one you want to have in any room of your home because it's comprehensive and perfectly browse-able for all of its 600-plus pages.

And finally, here's a book to read and think about: "No Fats No Fems: A Guide to Queer Empathy and Unpacking Prejudice" by Max Hovey (HarperOne, $19.99). How do you eliminate hateful, hurtful words, aimed at gay people – by gay people? What kind of stereotypes do we carry, unintentionally? This book takes those things out into the daylight by talking honestly and thoughtfully about them, as well as other issues. It's a book to have when doubts creep in, when you need a new way of thinking or a different direction, or when you just want something different to read.

And if these great books aren't enough, head to your favorite bookstore or library and ask for books that you can read before Pride or after. And Happy Pride!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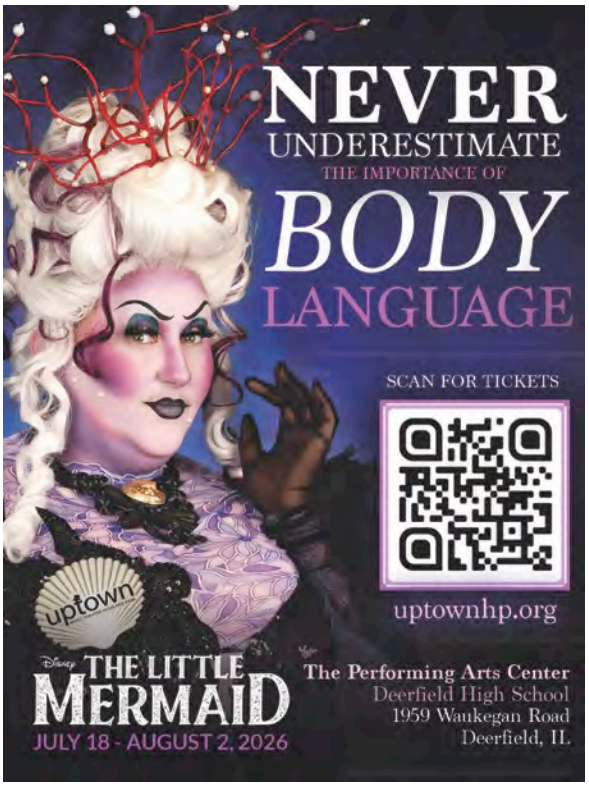
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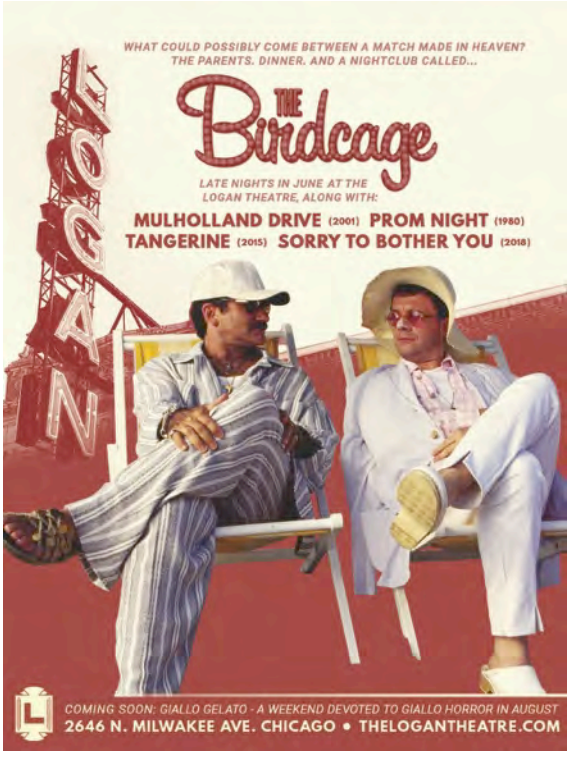
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PROVINCETOWN, MA

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Yearning for a queer adventure? Thirsting for a good time? Provincetown offers a wide range of accommodations to suit every style and personality, along with a kaleidoscope of activities – beautiful beaches and trails, museums and galleries (we are the oldest continuous arts colony in the US), themed week events, fabulous dining, live entertainment, boutique shops for every taste, and so much more! And don't forget the **Mischief. Sizzle. Queer. Magic. Pride.**

Provincetown is a place that changes you.
Any season. Every time.

ptowntourism.com

PROUD TO BE

IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING.

PRIDE PARADE CHICAGO

PHOTOS: PRIDECHICAGO.ORG

WHEN YOU MEET IN THE MIDDLE IN ILLINOIS, IT'S EASY TO GO ALL OUT WHEREVER YOU GO. SHAKE IT ALONGSIDE THE CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE. CHECK OUT NEIGHBORHOOD HOTSPOTS IN NORTHALSTED AND ANDERSONVILLE. AND TAKE IT BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS TO FIND PLENTY OF SMALL TOWNS BIG ON WARM WELCOMES. READY FOR A ROMANTIC GETAWAY? GALENA'S CALLING. LOOKING FOR SOME LOVELY LOCAL ARTS? HEAD FOR SPRINGFIELD. WHY NOT? HAVE IT ALL IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING.

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